

**The New York Times****City Room****Blogging From the Five Boroughs**

MARCH 17, 2011, 12:30 PM

**At Board 18, Nary a Whisper of Kruger**

By JAVIER C. HERNANDEZ

Emily Berl for The New York Times Business as usual: Dorothy Turano, district manager of Community Board 18 in Brooklyn and close associate of the newly criminally accused State Senator Carl Kruger, at Wednesday's meeting.

A federal corruption investigation into State Senator Carl Kruger has upended politics in Brooklyn and dominated conversations across the borough. Everywhere, it seems, but at Community Board 18, in his home district.

The board, which has many ties to Mr. Kruger, met on Wednesday night for the first time since federal investigators accused Mr. Kruger of taking more than \$1 million in bribes.

But over the course of a packed two-hour meeting near the Kings Plaza shopping mall on Flatbush Avenue in the Mill Basin neighborhood, there was no mention of scandal or any acknowledgment of Mr. Kruger. The only thing out of the ordinary was a vase of flowers and heart-shaped balloon sitting on the desk of Dorothy Turano, who has led the board as district manager for 22 years.

Ms. Turano, 73, is a trusted companion of Mr. Kruger; he had all but moved in to a multimillion-dollar mansion in Mill Basin with her and her two sons, according to a criminal complaint filed by the United States attorney in Manhattan earlier this month. Neighbors described Mr. Kruger and Ms. Turano as a couple, though Mr. Kruger appeared to be closest to one of Ms. Turano's sons, Michael, according to the complaint.

While Ms. Turano was not accused of wrongdoing, prosecutors portrayed the community board as a political tool of Mr. Kruger.

On Wednesday, it was business as usual for Ms. Turano. Wearing a fuchsia blazer, she smiled, thanked board members for the flowers and blew a kiss to a police officer. As news media cameras tracked her every move, she fielded complaints about broken lamps and dangerous stretches of highways.

After the meeting, Ms. Turano declined to be interviewed and did not respond when asked if she would stay on as district manager.



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MARCH 15, 2011, 3:07 PM ET

## Menendez Hit Over Money Linked to Albany Corruption

Republicans attacked New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez, a Democrat, for not giving up thousands of dollars in donations from a real-estate developer charged in an Albany corruption case.

Aaron Malinsky, the developer, faces federal conspiracy and money-laundering charges for allegedly funneling secret cash payments to New York state Sen. Carl Kruger. On Monday, aides to Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, both New York Democrats, said they were donating to charities the \$250 that Malinsky gave to each of them last August.

Menendez has gotten much more money from Malinsky. In 2008, he received \$2,300, and Federal Election Commission records stretching back to 2003 show Menendez and his affiliated political action committee received more than \$20,000 from the developer.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee also pointed to more than \$13,000 in other donations Malinsky relatives and employees have made to Menendez.

"It's striking that as his fellow senators rid themselves of their tainted campaign cash, Sen. Menendez is silent on not just his own Malinsky money, but also his relationship" with the developer, said NRSC spokesman Chris Bond.

Menendez's campaign issued a statement saying the senator "believes in honoring the highest ethical standards. He will conduct a thorough review of the facts and then make a decision about these contributions."

A lawyer for Malinsky decline to comment.

Federal prosecutors in Manhattan unsealed a criminal complaint last week charging Malinsky and others funneled bribes to Kruger and a close associate, as they sought to gain government approvals and in some cases taxpayer financing for real-estate development deals.



Associated Press

New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez

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## Anthony Seminario Indictment

Thursday, December 11, 2008



Total Number of Clips: 3	Cumulative Est. Audience: 310,044	Cumulative Est. Publicity Value: \$13,228 (Sum of Clip Totals)
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**Entry #1**

**CBS 2 News This Morning**  
WCBS (CBS) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Dec 11 2008 6:34AM EST  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 117996  
Est. Publicity Value: \$2364 (30 Seconds) \$4728 (Total)

been that way since 2003. a 35-story office tower but emergency officials tell us that the crew was actually working in the pit on what will be a subway entrance here at busy intersection of 42nd and 8th. that worker in critical condition at bellview hospital. live in time square indicted on fraud charges. he is accused of taking a million dollars in illegal payments. prosecutors say the 73-year-old lawmaker took payoffs from businesses trying to buy his influence. if convicted, he could face up to 20 years in prison. >>> nearly two dozen dogs are being kept in rotted feces filled crates. 73-year-old own core face animal cruelty charges. >>> and scores once the highest grossing strip club chain in the world it's going bust.

**Entry #2**

**CBS 2 News This Morning**  
WCBS (CBS) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Dec 11 2008 6:10AM EST  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 117996  
Est. Publicity Value: \$2364 (30 Seconds) \$4728 (Total)

by the in just a few minutes but it will be a soggy ride today and tomorrow morning to be sure. >> hang in there. >> yep. >> thanks. >>> how about the ride. >> reporter: i not an easy one. it looks like it will be this way all day getting to work and around this afternoon northbound just before exit 13 in bound brook. multcar crash being cleaned up. two lanes and off-ramp at exit 13 are closed down. this may be out there for sometime. and a couple problems continuing on the garden state parkway. number one, northbound at exit 135 in clark a crash being cleaned up. car went into the divider and the shoulder is closed down on southbound side. an accident past exit 105 that's alternate side park rules in effect city wide and it's a gridlock alert day in town today. >> thanks. >>> 10 after six. still ahead accused of crooked politics. an assemblyman indicted from taking payoffs from area business. >>> and a cat goes on attack

**Entry #3**

**Today in New York**  
WNBC (NBC) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Dec 11 2008 5:09AM EST  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 74052  
Est. Publicity Value: \$1886 (30 Seconds) \$3772 (Total)

buildings is out here just to make sure that what was going on here was all up to code. we understand that what was happening is there was a new entrance to a subway that was being dug when this happened. again, construction worker was under the surface of the street in a hole, as the subway entrance was being dug when a large piece of concrete fell on him. we'll get updates as to his condition as the day proceeds. for now, live here at 8th avenue and 42nd street, i'm glenn zimmerman, "today in new york." >> thank you very much. >>> well, they stand accused of plotting tell to kill american soldiers on american soil at ft. dix army base. now the defense has rested for the alleged terrorists known as the ft. dix five. closing arguments are scheduled to begin next monday. prosecutors have called this one of the worst cases of homegrown terrorism in the u.s. and those five suspects could face life in prison. >> legal trouble for a queens politician, assemblyman anthony seminario has been indicted by a grand jury. he's charged with taking \$1 million from people who wanted

Total Number of Clips: 3	Cumulative Est. Audience: 310,044	Cumulative Est. Publicity Value: \$13,228 (Sum of Clip Totals)
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# Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio indicted in \$1M favor-selling scam

BY THOMAS ZAMBITO  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Thursday, December 11th 2008, 2:24 AM

Long-serving Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio was indicted Wednesday on charges he sold his clout in Albany for a cool \$1 million.

The 73-year-old lawmaker faces 20 years in prison for taking payoffs from businesses trying to buy his influence.

The indictment doubles the amount Seminerio was accused of pocketing when he was busted on Sept. 10.

The feds say the veteran Democrat - who has spent three decades in the state Legislature - set up a bogus consulting firm called Marc Consultants to collect cash from businesses.

In return, Seminerio used his inside access to state lawmakers to try to win them favorable treatment in an eight-year scheme.

"That kind of relationship you can't buy for \$1 million," Seminerio told a hospital official with business before the state, according to Manhattan federal prosecutors.

The unnamed businesses are described as a hospital, a consulting firm associated with an educational institution and a firm that markets supplemental insurance packages to public institutions.

The feds were alerted to Seminerio's scheme by disgraced labor leader and Queens pol Brian McLaughlin, who has already pleaded guilty to federal corruption charges involving \$2.2 million in cash, luxury cars and other perks, the Daily News reported in September.

McLaughlin introduced Seminerio to an undercover FBI agent posing as a businessman, sources say. The agent paid Seminerio \$25,000 to introduce him to several Albany lawmakers, prosecutors say.

Seminerio, a former correction officer, has represented southern Queens since 1978. He's accused of defrauding the public of his honest services.

His lawyer has said he was trying to work out a plea deal.

[tzambito@nydailynews.com](mailto:tzambito@nydailynews.com)



# Elizabeth Benjamin THE DAILY POLITICS



## Seminario indicted

December 10, 2008

Federal prosecutors have obtained a corruption indictment against Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminario, formalizing a criminal complaint lodged in September.

The indictment accuses the veteran lawmaker of using his clout in Albany in exchange for payoffs from a hospital and other organizations. The money was funneled through a Marc Consultants, a firm set up by Seminario in 2000. The brief filing by acting U.S. Attorney Lev Dassin covers a lot of the same territory as the original criminal complaint, offering few additional details.

It does, however, say that Seminario pocketed "approximately \$1 million" in ill-gotten gains -- double the amount cited three months ago.

Last month, the Daily News reported that Seminario was trying to negotiate a plea bargain that would spare him jail time.

Full text of the indictment after the jump.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA : INDICTMENT  
-v- : 08 Cr.  
ANTHONY SEMINERIO, :

Defendant.

-----X  
COUNT ONE

(Scheme to Defraud the Public of Honest Services)

The Grand Jury charges:

Seminario's Duty Of Honest

Services To New York State Citizens

1. Since in or about 1978, ANTHONY SEMINERIO, the defendant, has served as a member of the New York State Assembly (the "Assembly"), representing New York's 38th Assembly district. As a member of the Assembly, SEMINERIO's official duties have included voting on legislation, acting as a public advocate on behalf of constituents and others, and discussing, persuading and influencing other legislators with respect to matters before the Assembly. SEMINERIO has made approximately \$79,500 base pay annually as a member of the Assembly.

2. As a member of the Assembly, ANTHONY SEMINERIO, the defendant, owed a duty of honest services to the citizens of

New York State, SEMINERIO's duty of honest services arose, in part, from various provisions of New York state law, which:

2 prohibit public officials from accepting payments in connection with official acts, from laboring under conflicts of interest, and from using their offices to extort illegal payments. More specifically, New York state law makes it a crime for a member of the Assembly to receive payments of any kind for taking official action. See N.Y. Public Officers Law § 77. New York law also imposes a duty on elected officials, including members of the Assembly, to avoid any business or professional engagements that are in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of their official duties. See N.Y. Public Officers Law § 74(2). Members of the Assembly are required to disclose, on an annual basis, "the nature and amount of any income in excess of \$1,000," including "consultant fees." See N.Y. Public Officers Law §§ 73-a(2)(a) and (3). Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, New York's public disclosure law permits a member of the New York State Legislature (the "Legislature") to report income earned from a business "by the name of the entity and not by the name of the individual customers, clients or tenants . . . ." Id.

Overview Of The Scheme To Defraud

3. From in or about April 2000, through and including in or about September 2008, ANTHONY SEMINERIO, the defendant, engaged in a scheme to defraud the public of his honest services as a member of the Assembly by using an alleged consulting firm, named Marc Consultants, to solicit and receive "consulting"

3 payments from persons and entities having business before the State of New York. In truth and in fact, however, SEMINERIO did little or no consulting work. Rather, SEMINERIO received approximately \$1 million from various entities with business before the State of New York, in connection with his position as a member of the Assembly and with the performance of his official duties, resulting in favorable treatment for those persons and/or entities in New York State Government. The entities that made these payments to SEMINERIO included, among others, hospitals and related entities, a consulting firm associated with an educational institution, and a firm engaged in marketing supplemental insurance packages to public institutions. Because New York's Public Officers Law permits a member of the Legislature to disclose income in the name of a business, rather than in the names of the actual clients of that business, SEMINERIO was able to use Marc Consultants to conceal his stream of corrupt payments from public scrutiny.

Statutory Allegation.

4. From in or about April 2000, through and including in or about September 2008, in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere, ANTHONY SEMINERIO, the defendant, unlawfully, willfully, and knowingly, having devised and intending to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud the public of his honest services, and for obtaining money and property by means of false

4 and fraudulent pretenses, representations, and promises, for the purpose of executing such scheme and artifice and attempting so to do, did place in a post office and authorized depository for

mail matter a matter and thing to be sent and delivered by the Postal Service, and deposited and caused to be deposited a matter and thing to be sent and delivered by a private and commercial interstate carrier, and took and received therefrom such matter and thing, and knowingly caused to be delivered by mail and such carrier according to the direction thereon, and at the place at which it was directed to be delivered by the person to whom it was addressed, such matter and thing, to wit, SEMINERIO, while serving as a member of the New York State Assembly, and in connection with his official position as a member of the New York State Assembly, sent and received materials using the U.S. mail and a commercial interstate carrier to solicit and receive a stream of corrupt payments from persons and entities having business before the State of New York, and disguised those corrupt payments as fees for purported consulting services. (Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1341 and 1346.)

Forfeiture Allegation

5. As a result of committing the honest services fraud offense alleged in Count One of this Indictment, ANTHONY SEMINERIO, the defendant, shall forfeit to the United States, pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C)

5

and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461, all property, real and personal, that constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the commission of the offense, including but not limited to a sum of \$1 million in United States currency representing the amount of proceeds obtained as a result of the offense.

Substitute Assets Provision

6. If any of the above-described forfeitable property, as a result of any act or omission of the defendants:

(1) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;

(2) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third person;

(3) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the Court;

(4) has been substantially diminished in value; or

(5) has been commingled with other property which cannot be subdivided without difficulty;

6.

it is the intent of the United States, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p), to seek forfeiture of any other property of said defendants up to the value of the above forfeitable property.

(Title 18, United States Code, Section 981 and Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461)

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FOREPERSON LEV L. DASSIN  
Acting United States Attorney

By Bill Hammond on December 10, 2008 6:21 PM | 5 Comments (13)

# Newsday.com

## Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio indicted

December 10, 2008

NEW YORK

A federal grand jury in Manhattan has indicted Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio on a charge of taking \$1 million in illegal payments.

Seminerio is charged with one count of honest services mail fraud. If convicted, the 73-year-old faces up to 20 years in prison.

Seminerio already was accused by federal authorities of creating a bogus consulting firm to hide payments to him.

Federal authorities say that between 2000 and September of this year, Seminerio used that firm to solicit and receive payments from people who wanted access to lawmakers and favorable treatment in Albany.

After-hours messages left at the lawmaker's offices and the office of his lawyer weren't immediately returned.



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## Local

Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio indicted

The Associated Press

2008-12-11 02:49:28.0

Current rank: # 1,657 of 5,966

### NEW YORK -

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## Queens Assemblyman Pinched For Mail Fraud

Posted on Wednesday, 10 of December , 2008 at 8:03 pm

**NEW YORK—A federal grand jury in Manhattan returned an indictment Wednesday charging Anthony Seminerio, a New York State Assemblyman, with one count of honest services mail fraud.**

**Seminerio, who has served as a member of the Assembly representing New York's 38th Assembly district in Queens since approximately 1978, was previously charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Sept. 9.**

**According to the indictment filed in Manhattan federal court, from approximately April 2000 through September 2008, Seminerio defrauded the public of his honest services as a member of the Assembly by using an alleged consulting firm, Marc Consultants, to solicit and receive "consulting" payments from persons and entities having business before the State of New York.**

**Prosecutors say Seminerio, however, did little or no consulting work. Instead, he received approximately \$1 million from various entities with business before the State of New York, in connection with his position as a member of the Assembly and with the performance of his official duties, resulting in favorable treatment for those entities in New York State Government. The entities that made these payments included hospitals and related entities; a consulting firm associated with an educational institution; and a firm engaged in marketing supplemental insurance packages to public institutions.**

**If convicted, Seminerio, 73, of Queens, faces a maximum sentence of 20 years' imprisonment on the charge set forth in the indictment. 12-10-08**

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## **The Post-Standard**

### **Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio indicted**

12/10/2008, 9:49 p.m. ET

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal grand jury in Manhattan has indicted Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio on a charge of taking \$1 million in illegal payments.

Seminerio is charged with one count of honest services mail fraud. If convicted, the 73-year-old faces up to 20 years in prison.

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# QUEENS CRAP

A WEBSITE FOCUSED ON THE OVERDEVELOPMENT AND "TWEEDING" OF THE BOROUGH OF QUEENS IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

## Two-Ton Tony indicted

QNS. DEM HIT WITH FRAUD RAP

By BRUCE GOLDING, NY Post

Veteran Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio was indicted for fraud yesterday after plea negotiations in his corruption case apparently broke down.

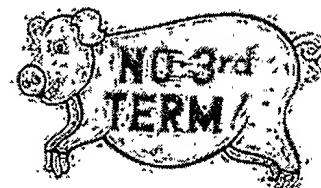
The Manhattan federal court indictment boosted to \$1 million the amount of cash the Queens Democrat is charged with collecting through an eight-year, influence-peddling scheme.

In early September, federal authorities charged that Seminerio pocketed money in exchange for access to Albany lawmakers.

Payments allegedly went to a bogus consulting outfit linked to the Assemblyman.

Defense lawyer Ira Cooper, who was reportedly trying to cut a deal for 73-year-old pol, didn't return a call for comment.

POSTED BY QUEENS CRAPPER AT 6:58 AM



Artwork by Jerry Rotondi

"Let us dare to read, think, speak and write." - John Adams, 1765

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Anonymous said...

Great picture! I almost feel bad for the greedy but yet cute and cuddly bastard

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Thursday, December 11, 2008

## About Hillary's U.S. Senate Seat In New York: Not For Sale And Very Much A Jump Ball

News Copy is still running a poll on New York's next U.S. Senator. Vote here to express your own angst on who should replace Hillary Clinton.

This story is now fluid, since the U.S. Senate appointment scandal surrounding Governor Rod Lagojevich is turning into a political sinkhole for Democrats in Barack Obama's Chicago circle.

I can imagine that Governor Paterson might have little choice but to pick the least politically-connected person for New York's U.S. Senate seat -- or hold a special election.

The Buffalo News has endorsed Andrew Cuomo. He is the only candidate for this job who has actually won running statewide.

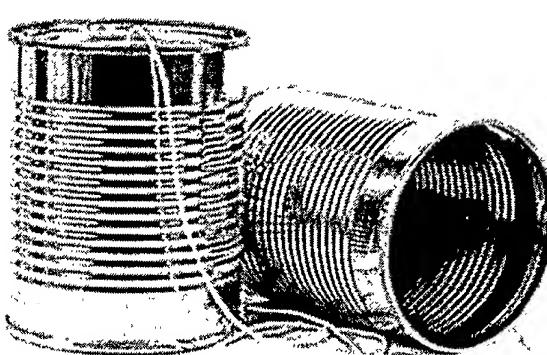
The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle dares any "contenders" for this U.S. Senate appointment to take a closer look at upstate New York. That newspaper suggested both Caroline Kennedy and Cuomo take a "talking tour" throughout the northern reaches of the state. The editorial also offers an endorsement of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter.

Teachers union leader Randi Weingarten has officially thrown her name in for consideration, as has actress and women's activist Fran Drescher.

At this point, pulling someone's name out of the hat might be fun.

Posted by Bob Fois on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 10:07 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)  
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## Across The Empire State: It's A Scandal Free Thursday, So Far



Morning roundups from the Albany Times Union blog Capitol Confidential in the New York Daily blog Daily Politics have continued updates on the Illinois "pay for play" scandal and the usual suspects in the New York State Senate trying to figure out who is in charge.

Noteworthy were State Senators Marty Golden and Dean Skelos crashing Governor David Paterson's fundraiser last night.

Seems to me that just about every Democrat and Republican in the State Senate is about to be bargained with for

control of that legislative -- and have New York's Democrats just strategically dropped back into an underdog mode for 2009?

### **Cuomo Consolidation**

New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo is about to unveil a law that will streamline consolidation of local governments, reported Long Island's Newsday.

As someone who has seen both sides of the consolidation debate in school districts and local governments sometimes bitterly debated behind closed doors over the past 20 years in Westchester County, I can safely predict there will be people in both major parties hailing Cuomo and as many reviling him.

### **NY Pay To Play**

Illinois has nothing on New York when it comes to "pay to play" -- notes Ryan Sager in the New York Post this morning.

"... When New York's then-Gov. George Pataki wanted a third term back in 2002, he had to pony up - but not out of his own pocket. He cut a deal with Dennis Rivera, president of 1199/SEIU, for \$1.8 billion in raises for health-care workers - a bribe drawn straight from the public fisc."

Pataki sold out New York, as did many members of the State Legislature (some still for sale).

### **Political Learning Curve**

Sports columnist Mike Lupica added to the U.S. Senate suggestion box a name of someone I have always viewed as the dark horse nationally for Democrats, former Nebraska governor and U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey, now New School president ... who I believe has been a New Yorker for 7-8 years now.

The New York Times reported that Kerrey is regrettably under fire by senior faculty at the New School, who handed him an overwhelming vote of no-confidence yesterday afternoon 74-2.

The late Sonny Bono used to joke with me that nothing was worse than the politics of Hollywood and the music industry. He often admitted that it prepared him for Congress.

It appears that academia has chewed at Kerrey without mercy and the former U.S. Senator must be wondering why he left Washington, D.C. to be put on trial by a bunch of professors who balked at him almost from day one for this Democrat's early support of the Iraq War.

Posted by Bob Fois on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 09:13 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)  
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## **Tom Spargo, Former State Supreme Court Judge Charged With Attempted Extortion And Federal Program Bribery.**

Well-known election attorney Tom Spargo is in trouble again, this time charged with attempted extortion and bribery, reported The New York Daily News blog The Daily Politics.

"... While Spargo was a state Supreme Court Justice in 2003, he allegedly solicited \$10,000 from an Ulster County, N.Y., attorney who had cases pending before the judge.

"The indictment further charges that Spargo solicited the money by causing the attorney to fear that Spargo would use his official acts and influence to harm the attorney if he was not paid and, conversely, to help the attorney if he was paid."

Liz Benjamin of the Daily News noted the laundry list of Spargo's past problems. Spargo is no stranger to

elections in New York State. He's often been the attorney candidates hire to solve problems with petitions and the attorney opponents fear when he's scrutinizing signatures.

"Veterans of the Albany scene will no doubt recall Spargo, a well-known elections attorney whose client list former Rep. John Sweeney, who lost his seat to Democratic Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand in 2006. Spargo was representing candidates as recently as this past election cycle.

"Spargo is perhaps best known for his role, along with Sweeney, in the so-called "Brooks Brothers Mafia" during the 2000 presidential recount in Florida."

Spargo and Sweeney, to be fair, were viewed by GOP loyalists as heroes in Florida for that "rowdy" demonstration during the Bush/Gore recount -- though the political payback came six years later when he was challenged Gillibrand (who worked for Al Gore's attorney David Boies). Gillibrand's first run was significantly bolstered by hefty donations from Democrats nationwide who had long memories of the 2000 legal battle that went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Spargo had already fallen from grace when he was initially removed as a State Supreme Court Justice for handing out \$5 coupons for free drinks when he was campaigning for a town justice seat. The Court of Appeals later barred him from ever again holding judicial office in New York. He had been found to have solicited funds from lawyers appearing in his court.

I've worked on campaigns that had to deal with Spargo's wrath and I've been on campaigns where candidates hired him. Election attorneys are sometimes like soldiers of fortune, other times brilliant and some of them unspeakably like whores.

Posted by Bob Fois on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 03:19 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)  
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## Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio Indicted: \$1 Million Payoff Scheme Alleged



The Daily Politics had this late-breaking story on an indictment that was described as Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio allegedly using his clout in Albany in exchange for payoffs from a hospital and other organizations.

He is alleged to have made approximately \$1 million from the apparent payoff scheme.

For once, it would be nice to read a headline about a politician who does something good.

Posted by Bob Fois on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 02:43 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [TrackBack \(0\)](#)  
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## Closing Time: The Political Confessionals Are Open For Business In Barack



## Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio indicted

Associated Press - December 10, 2008 9:55 PM ET

NEW YORK (AP) - A federal grand jury in Manhattan has indicted Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio on a charge of taking \$1 million in illegal payments.

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### Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio indicted

NEW YORK (AP) A federal grand jury in Manhattan has indicted Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio on a charge of taking \$1 million in illegal payments.

Seminerio is charged with one count of honest services mail fraud. If convicted, the 73-year-old faces up to 20 years in prison.

Seminerio already was accused by federal authorities of creating a bogus consulting firm to hide payments to him.

Federal authorities say that between 2000 and September of this year, Seminerio used that firm to solicit and receive payments from people who wanted access to lawmakers and favorable treatment in Albany.

After-hours messages left at the lawmaker's offices and the office of his lawyer weren't immediately returned.

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# NEW YORK POST

## ASSEMBLYMAN SEMINERIO IN \$500G SCANDAL

By FREDERIC U. DICKER and BRENDAN SCOTT *in Albany* and JENNIFER FERMINO *in New York*

**Sprint**



September 10, 2008 --

In an unprecedented sting that brought an undercover FBI agent onto the state Capitol floor, a veteran Democratic assemblyman from Queens was busted today for allegedly taking \$500,000 in bribes, prosecutors announced.

Anthony Seminerio, 73, who has represented South Ozone Park since 1978 and often boasted that he was "John Gotti's assemblyman," was charged with running a secret consulting firm through which he pocketed the cash in return for peddling influence in Albany.

"Mr. Seminerio crafted a plan to receive such payments in a fashion effectively shielding those payments from public scrutiny," said Mark Mershon of the FBI.

Seminerio, released on \$500,000 bail, declined to comment as he walked out of Manhattan federal court. His wife, Catherine, told reporters, "Drop dead!" and stuck out her tongue.

Using a cooperating witness, phone taps and eventually an undercover agent, investigators were able to unravel how Seminerio hid the alleged scam while pressing Albany colleagues to help him aid constituents who had paid him cash.

According to a criminal complaint, Seminerio established a firm called Marc Consultants in 2000. People who approached him to wield his influence were allegedly told to deposit checks into the company's account.

In one episode earlier this year, Seminerio allegedly pocketed \$390,000 from a hospital in his district whose officials approached him for help securing extra funding during threatened budget cutbacks. In several taped phone conversations, Seminerio said he would "go rattle some cages," but only if the officials "find me a check."

"That kind of relationship you can't buy for a million dollars," he said in one recorded conversation.

In late 2007, as the investigation unfolded, the FBI had a cooperating witness introduce Seminerio to an undercover agent posing as a businessman trying to secure contracts with the state. Seminerio agreed to help him.

Over several months, the agent wrote \$25,000 worth of checks to Marc Consultants in return for Seminerio's promises of help.

Then, in a shocking twist, beginning in March, Seminero arranged for the agent to come to Albany to meet several other state senators and assemblymen to discuss his business proposals. On at least one occasion, Seminero brought the agent into the Capitol building, through security and onto the floor of the Assembly.

None of the other pols was implicated in a crime, and the feds omitted their names in the complaint.

"The absence of general transparency in Albany provides cover for officials seeking to enrich themselves at the public's expense," said US Attorney Michael Garcia.

*[jennifer.fermino@nypost.com](mailto:jennifer.fermino@nypost.com)*

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## The Day In Albany

### Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio indicted

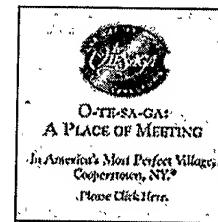
Thursday Dec 11 7:55 AM

The Associated Press

A federal grand jury in Manhattan has indicted Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio on a charge of taking \$1 million in illegal payments. Seminerio is charged with one count of honest services mail fraud. If convicted, the 73-year-old faces up to 20 years in prison.

Seminerio already was accused by federal authorities of creating a bogus consulting firm to hide payments to him. Federal authorities say that between 2000 and September of this year, Seminerio used that firm to solicit and receive payments from people who wanted access to lawmakers and favorable treatment in Albany.

After-hours messages left at the lawmaker's offices and the office of his lawyer weren't immediately returned.





said. "The absence of genuine transparency in Albany provides cover for officials seeking to enrich themselves at the public expense."

Mr. Seminerio's assembly office declined to comment, and neither he nor his attorney could be reached yesterday.

Mr. Seminerio, a Democrat who served as a corrections officer before joining the Assembly 30 years ago, allegedly connected his "consulting" clients with powerful government officials who could further their interests. The U.S. attorney's office refused to identify the government contacts involved by name, instead describing them as various legislators, including committee chairs, and high-ranking agency officials. There is no indication in the complaint that they knew Mr. Seminerio was illegally profiting from their relationships with him.

Mr. Seminerio's alleged clients □ some of whom were undercover or secretly cooperating with prosecutors □ included executives involved in health care, corrections, and real estate. For example, prosecutors said, he promised to advocate a hospital's interests by speaking with an Assembly committee chair about the state's health care budget.

"I could talk to anybody in Albany," he said in an excerpt of the conversation, which was recorded by the FBI. "I'll take care of you."

In all, Mr. Seminerio received more than \$500,000 in payments since 2000, according to prosecutors. Mr. Garcia said Mr. Seminerio was able to avoid disclosing the payments by funneling them through a consulting firm, "Marc Consultants." Under state rules, legislators must list sources of income in excess of \$1,000. Mr. Seminerio's 2006 report to the Legislative Ethics Committee, which is available online, lists Marc Consultants as one of those sources without having to indicate where the money originally came from or disclosing publicly how much it was.

Mr. Seminerio's practice may not be an isolated case, considering the investigation into Senator Bruno, who has denied any wrongdoing, and the suggestion that Mr. Seminerio was inspired by two other lawmakers. Those allegations, if proven valid, would represent a new twist on the old revolving door practice of lawmakers cashing in on their government contacts after they leave office. In Albany, if the prosecutors' account is correct, at least some lawmakers may have been functioning as paid lobbyists even before they left office.

Mr. Seminerio's case illustrates that New York's disclosure rules are "a laughingstock," said a former executive director of the New York State Commission on Lobbying, David Grandreau.

The state's legislative ethics rules, he said, "are more interested in enabling that behavior than they are in stopping it," he said, referring to the corruption cases. "Once one legislator knows about a perk that's available, that gets around pretty quick. Who you can go to to get the seats to the Yankees, who you can go to to get cheap car rentals, and who you can go to to set up your consulting practice. They share that information."

Mr. Bruno's office declined to comment.

Meetings that Mr. Seminerio allegedly set up involved a Health Department official who "just became the Director of State Operations" □ presumably Dennis Whalen, who serves in the governor's office.

In another excerpt provided by prosecutors, Mr. Seminerio spoke with a person identified as "a leader of the Assembly" □ possibly Speaker Sheldon Silver □ who assured him that hospital budgets would not be cut despite Governor Paterson's release of what he called a hospital "hit list." Mr. Seminerio then relayed the news to a hospital executive, according to the excerpts, noting that he had been "yelling and screaming" to the Assembly leader about the cuts.

Representatives for Mr. Whalen and Mr. Silver declined to comment when asked if they were the officials identified in the transcripts. In a statement, Mr. Silver noted the "very serious" charges against Mr. Seminerio and said he is cooperating with the U.S. attorney's office.

The prosecutors' excerpts also identified a chair of a New York State Assembly committee whom Mr. Seminerio lobbied. The chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Health, Richard Gottfried, said yesterday that he was not involved.

"I had conversations with any number of my colleagues expressing concerns" about hospital cuts, he said. "I had no reason to think those conversations were motivated by anything other than concern for their local hospital."

Mr. Gottfried said he did not know if Mr. Silver was one of the officials identified in the excerpts.

Mr. Seminerio, who serves in the 38th Assembly district and claims on his Web site to be tough on criminals, was released on \$500,000 bail. He is facing a single count of defrauding the public of his honest services, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison.

# Embattled pol spends \$35G in campaign cash to fight federal charges

BY KENNETH LOVETT  
DAILY NEWS ALBANY BUREAU CHIEF

Friday, November 21st 2008, 4:00 AM

ALBANY - Facing federal corruption charges, Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio has used \$35,000 in campaign funds to help pay his legal fees, the Daily News has learned.

Seminerio's campaign cut the check to Rosedale lawyer Ira Cooper on Sept. 19, Board of Elections filings show.

Seminerio's campaign treasurer, Lisa Loughlin, confirmed the payment was for legal work connected to his arrest.

"According to a state Board of Elections ethics opinion, the expenditure is permissible," Loughlin said.

While not commenting specifically on Seminerio, state Board of Elections spokesman Robert Brehm said the board issued a formal opinion in 1989 allowing the use of campaign cash for legal fees if the charges are related to the holding of office or running of a campaign.

Blair Horner, of the New York Public Interest Research Group, blasted the use of campaign money for legal fees.

"This should be illegal," Horner said. "These are campaign funds, not legal defense funds."

Federal prosecutors filed corruption charges against Seminerio in September after an undercover investigation.

Seminerio is accused of pocketing \$500,000 in payoffs through a sham consulting company that offered favors to entities with business before the state.

A preliminary hearing in the case is set for Dec. 10, by which time he could be indicted by a federal grand jury or make some type of plea.

Despite his lingering legal troubles, Seminerio, 73, this month ran unopposed for a 16th term.

Seminerio is not the first criminally charged state legislator to dip into his campaign account for legal fees.

- Former state Controller Alan Hevesi, who pleaded guilty to using state employees to chauffeur his wife, used at least \$750,000 in campaign cash to pay his lawyers.

- Former Assemblyman Brian McLaughlin, who pleaded guilty to stealing more than \$2 million, paid his lawyers \$500,000 from his campaign coffers, but later refunded the money.

- Former state Sen. Guy Velella, who pleaded guilty to a felony charge of conspiracy to commit bribery in 2004, used \$400,000 from his campaign on legal fees.

[klogett@nydailynews.com](mailto:klogett@nydailynews.com)

# Assemblyman Seminario Plea

Thursday, June 25, 2009



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Est. Households/Views: 8477  
Est. Publicity Value: \$285 (30 Seconds) \$570 (Total)

charged with attempted murder, but was later allowed to plead guilty to weapons possession after the recording surfaced. defense attorneys say perino, who served more than two decades on the police force, forgot to tell prosecutors about the conversation. "the concern that i have is the chilling affect it might have on a police officer doing his job. detective perino was seeking to do what he is asked to do by the city of new york, get guns off the street, and that's exactly what it was all about." perino was acquitted on eight other counts of perino was acquitted on eight other counts of perjury, but his lawyers still say they plan to appeal his conviction. he faces up to 21 years in prison for the felony charges and one year for the misdemeanor. perino has been suspended pending termination. embattled former queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments.

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Jun 24 2009 8:38PM EDT  
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extend coverage to more than 50-million uninsured senate republicans take aim at supreme court nominee sonia sotomayor's views on the right to bear arms. republicans say they're troubled by sotomayor's rulings involving gun ownership. the appellate court sotomayor served on upheld a lower court's ruling that only the federal government can enforce the second amendment. "now her second amendment decisions appear to have unnecessarily minimized and confined the scope and vitality of this second amendment constitutional right." republican senators say they'll also ask sotomayor to clarify her stance on affirmative action and a death penalty. sotomayor's confirmation hearings are set to begin embattled former queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments.

Entry #3



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News All Evening  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 6:35PM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 21395  
Est. Publicity Value: \$586 (30 Seconds) \$1172 (Total)

a fire department rule requires inspections every 15 days. the commissioner says a captain and a deputy chief would be permanently stripped of their commands. five other deputy and battalion chiefs have also been reprimanded. none of them are facing criminal charges. the fire broke out when the damaged office tower was being demolished. firefighters robert bedolla and joseph graffagnino were killed when they couldn't get water out of a brokenout of a broken embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31-years. a new york judge, delays bernard madoff restitution

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Programming Type: News  
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Est. Publicity Value: \$586 (30 Seconds) \$1172 (Total)

i'm jeanine ramirez with a new york 1 minute. an angry governor paterson is demanding the senate to convene tomorrow at 3 pm -- and if they fail to do so -- face court action. it comes after a second special session today failed to yield progress. the republican led coalition meanwhile is pushing binding arbitration to settle the albany power struggle former queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. admitting to embezzling a million dollars in payments from companies doing state business. the f-d-n-y disciplines seven officers for mistakes that contributed to the deadly 2007 fire at the former deutsche bank building. officials say commanders failed to inspect the site for five months prior to

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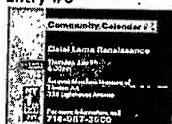


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Jun 24 2009 6:05PM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
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Est. Publicity Value: \$586 (30 Seconds) \$1172 (Total)

killed when they couldn't get water out of a brokenout of a broken embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31-years. murdering her husband will be sentenced thursday. janet mercereau faces 25 years to life in prison. she was found guilty last month in the shooting death of her husband, douglas, in december of 2007. investigators say mercereau, a city fire marshal, was killed with his own gun as he slept in the family's home. janet mercereau maintained she had nothing to do with

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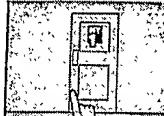


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embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in

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the day. embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31-years. he may be talking tough when it comes to the senate -- but a majority of new york voters still don't approve of the job governor paterson is doing.

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**Est. Publicity Value: \$509 (30 Seconds) \$1018 (Total)**

democrats, again.. we will have live coverage of the governor when his news conference gets underway. embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31-years. former mayor rudy giuliani is speaking out about the chaos in the state senate.. but is telling new yorkers not to confuse his criticism for plans that he's running for governor next year. ny1 political anchor dominic carter joins us now

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and I'm Jeanine Ramirez, with a ny1 minute. as the senate democrats call it quits and head home -- state republicans push for binding arbitration to settle the power struggle in albany. and they have the backing of mayor bloomberg who says something needs to be done before july 1st. former queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. he admitted to embezzling a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with albany. the f-d-n-y disciplines seven fire officers for mistakes that contributed to the deadly 2007 fire at the former deutsche bank building. officials say commanders failed to inspect the site for five months prior to the fire. large crowds are expected at the cambridge heights cemetery this evening to honor of grand rabbi menachem schneerson who died 15 years ago today. and we'll take you to a gay and lesbian jazz show as pride week continues on ny1.

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**Est. Households/Views: 10696**  
**Est. Publicity Value: \$308 (30 Seconds) \$616 (Total)**

may 13th found the same disapproval rating. the nearly 25-hundred registered voters were surveyed for the poll between june 16th to the 21st. the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 2 embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31-years. a bill is being introduced in the u-s senate to help all those living with 9/11-related health problems. the james zadroga 9/11 health and compensation act is the first comprehensive 9/11 health bill to ever be

**Entry #15**

**News All Day**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 3:30PM EDT**



Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 10696  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$308 (30 Seconds) \$616 (Total)

I'm roma torre with a ny1 minute. the senate republicans and their ally democrat pedro espada are calling for binding arbitration to solve the power struggle that has crippled new york's capitol. sources say mayor bloomberg is giving his support to the idea. queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he accepted a million dollars from companies doing business with the state. new york senator kirsten gillibrand introduces a bill that would provide health funding for september 11th first

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Entry #16



News All Day  
 NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
 Jun 24 2009 3:07PM EDT  
 Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 10696  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$308 (30 Seconds) \$616 (Total)

poll found that 61 percent disapprove of his work. 28 percent thought he was doing okay.. and 12 percent weren't sure. a poll conducted back on may 13th found the same disapproval rating. the nearly 25-hundred registered voters were surveyed for the poll between june 16th to the 21st. the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 2 embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminerio resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31-years. a bill is being introduced in the u-s senate to help

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Entry #17



News All Day  
 NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
 Jun 24 2009 3:00PM EDT  
 Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 10696  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$308 (30 Seconds) \$616 (Total)

I'm roma torre with a ny1 minute. the senate republicans and their ally democrat pedro espada are calling for binding arbitration to solve the power struggle that has crippled new york's capital. sources say mayor bloomberg is giving his support to the idea. queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he accepted a million dollars from companies doing business with the state. new york senator kirsten gillibrand introduces a bill that would provide health funding for september 11th first responders and residents effected by the attack the rent is going up by as much as six percent for new yorkers living in rent stabilized apartments. the rent guidelines board announced its decision last night during a raucous meeting. and celebrating pride month with song.

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Entry #18



News All Day  
 NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
 Jun 24 2009 2:37PM EDT  
 Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 11916  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$381 (30 Seconds) \$762 (Total)

sure, a poll conducted back on may 13th found the same disapproval rating. the nearly 25-hundred registered voters were surveyed for the poll between june 16th to the 21st. the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 2 embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminerio resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31-years. a bill is being introduced in the u-s senate to help all those living with 9/11-related health problems. the james zadroga 9/11 health and compensation act is the first comprehensive 9/11 health bill to ever be

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Entry #19



News All Day  
 NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
 Jun 24 2009 2:30PM EDT  
 Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 11916  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$381 (30 Seconds) \$762 (Total)

I'm roma torre with a ny1 minute. the senate republicans and their ally democrat pedro espada are calling for binding arbitration to solve the power struggle that has crippled new york's capital. sources say mayor bloomberg is giving his support to the idea. queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he

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Entry #20



News All Day  
 NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
 Jun 24 2009 2:04PM EDT  
 Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 11916  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$381 (30 Seconds) \$762 (Total)

he may be talking tough when it comes to the senate -- but a majority of new york voters still don't approve of the job governor paterson is doing. a new quinnipiac university poll found that 61 percent disapprove of his rk. 28 percent thought he was doing okay.. and 12 percent weren't sure. a poll conducted back on may 13th found the same disapproval rating. the nearly 25-hundred registered voters were surveyed for the poll between june 16th to the 21st. the poll has a margin of error of plus or minus 2 embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminerio resigned yesterday, effective immediately.

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Entry #21



News All Day  
 NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
 Jun 24 2009 2:00PM EDT  
 Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 11916  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$381 (30 Seconds) \$762 (Total)

I'm roma torre with a ny1 minute. the governor says he won't sign any of the legislation independently voted on by the republicans and democrats during yesterday's special senate session. both sides are scheduled to be back in the chamber this afternoon. gay marriage and spending caps are among the bills up for discussion. queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he accepted a million dollars from companies doing business with the state. mayor bloomberg is in washington lobbying for a bill that would provide health funding for september 11th first responders and residents effected by the attacks. the rent is going up by as much as six percent for new yorkers living in rent stabilized apartments. the rent guidelines board announced its decision last night during a raucous meeting, and celebrating pride month with song.

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News All Day  
 NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
 Jun 24 2009 1:30PM EDT  
 Programming Type: News  
 Est. Households/Views: 15992  
 Est. Publicity Value: \$368 (30 Seconds) \$736 (Total)

I'm roma torre with a ny1 minute. the governor says he won't sign any of the legislation independently voted on by the republicans and democrats during yesterday's special senate session. both sides are scheduled to be back in the chamber this afternoon. gay marriage and spending caps are among the bills up for discussion. queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he accepted a million dollars from companies doing business with the state. mayor bloomberg is in washington lobbying for

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a bill that would provide

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**News All Day**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 1:05PM EDT**  
**Programming Type: News**  
**Est. Households/Views: 15992**

**Est. Publicity Value: \$368 (30 Seconds) \$736 (Total)**  
embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fines. seminerio resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31 years. a bill is being introduced in the u-s senate to help all those living with 9/11-related health problems. the james zadroga 9/11 health and compensation act is the first comprehensive 9/11 health bill to ever be

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**News All Day**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 1:00PM EDT**  
**Programming Type: News**  
**Est. Households/Views: 15992**

**Est. Publicity Value: \$368 (30 Seconds) \$736 (Total)**  
i'm roma torre with a ny1 minute. the governor says he won't sign any of the legislation independently voted on by the republicans and democrats during yesterday's special senate session. both sides are scheduled to be back in the chamber this afternoon. gay marriage and spending caps are among the bills up for discussion. queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he accepted a million dollars from companies doing business with the state. mayor bloomberg is in washington lobbying for a bill that would provide health funding for september 11th first responders and residents effected by the attacks. the rent is going up by as much as six percent for new yorkers living in rent stabilized apartments. the rent guidelines board announced its decision last night during a raucous meeting and celebrating pride month with song.

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**News All Day**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 12:42PM EDT**  
**Programming Type: News**  
**Est. Households/Views: 14065**

**Est. Publicity Value: \$513 (30 Seconds) \$1026 (Total)**  
comes in ten minutes. embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. when he is sentenced on october 20th, he could receive between 5 months and 15 years in prison. that is in addition to tens of thousands of dollars in fine seminerio resigned yesterday, effective immediately. the 74 year old had been in the assembly for almost 31 years. a bill is being introduced in the u-s senate to help all those living with 9/11-related health problems. the james zadroga 9/11 health and compensation act is the first comprehensive 9/11 health bill to ever be introduced in the senate. mayor bloomberg and senators from new york and new jersey are among those in washington for the event. the legislation would cover medical monitoring and treatment for first

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**News All Day**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 12:30PM EDT**  
**Programming Type: News**  
**Est. Households/Views: 14065**

**Est. Publicity Value: \$513 (30 Seconds) \$1026 (Total)**  
minute. the governor says he won't sign any of the legislation independently voted on by the republicans and democrats during yesterday's special senate session. both sides are scheduled to be back in the chamber this afternoon. gay marriage and spending caps are among the bills up for discussion. queens assemblyman anthony seminerio pleads guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he accepted a million dollars from companies doing business with the state. mayor bloomberg is in washington lobbying for a bill that would provide health funding for september 11th first responders and residents effected by the attacks. the rent is going up by as much as six percent for new yorkers living in rent stabilized apartments. the rent guidelines board announced its decision last night during a raucous meeting and celebrating pride month with song. an upcoming concert takes a look at the history of gay and lesbian jazz musicians. details on all those stories and more. but first, here's a check of the weather on the ones.ther on the ones

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**News All Day**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 12:06PM EDT**  
**Programming Type: News**  
**Est. Households/Views: 14065**

**Est. Publicity Value: \$513 (30 Seconds) \$1026 (Total)**  
confront this dysfunction directly and take decisive steps to solve it once and for all." there hasn't been a constitutional convention since 1967. sources say embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio is expected to plead guilty to fraud charges. seminerio resigned yesterday. effectively immediately, he is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not do business with him. seminerio has been in the assembly for almost 31 years. the 74-year-old faces up to 20 years in prison. a bill is being introduced in the u-s senate to help all those living with 9/11-related health problems. the james zadroga 9/11 health and compensation act is the first comprehensive 9/11 health bill to ever be

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**News All Day**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 12:00PM EDT**  
**Programming Type: News**  
**Est. Households/Views: 14065**

**Est. Publicity Value: \$513 (30 Seconds) \$1026 (Total)**  
i'm roma torre with a ny1 minute. the governor says he won't sign any of the legislation independently voted on by the republicans and democrats during yesterday's special senate session. both sides are scheduled to be back in the chamber this afternoon. gay marriage and spending caps are among the bills up for discussion. sources say queens assemblyman anthony seminerio is expected to plead guilty to fraud charges. federal prosecutors say he accepted a million dollars from companies doing business with the state. mayor bloomberg is in washington lobbying for a bill that would provide health funding for september 11th first responders and residents effected by the attacks. the rent is going up by as much as six percent for new yorkers living in rent stabilized apartments. the rent guidelines board announced its decision last night during a raucous meeting and celebrating pride month with song. an upcoming concert takes a

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**News All Morning**  
**NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1**  
**Jun 24 2009 10:37AM EDT**  
**Programming Type: News**  
**Est. Households/Views: 22359**

**Est. Publicity Value: \$655 (30 Seconds) \$1310 (Total)**  
must respect those rights and heed the will of its own people. it must govern through consent and not coercion." as for the legitimacy of the election -- obama says "a sizable percentage of the iranian people" consider it illegitimate. state tv in iran is reporting that ahmadinejad will be sworn in sometime in late july or august. president obama continues to push forward on health care reform. he is scheduled to meet with a bi-partisan group later today that includes governors from michigan, wisconsin, washington, vermont and south dakota. the governors all held separate health care forums earlier this year. white house officials say the meeting is a chance to discuss how health care will meet on health care, scheduled to be broadcast tonight on abc. embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio is reportedly expected to plead guilty to fraud charges later today. seminerio resigned yesterday, effective immediately. a law enforcement source tells the daily news he will plead guilty to a

**Entry #30**

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News All Morning  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 10:04AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 22359  
Est. Publicity Value: \$655 (30 Seconds) \$1310 (Total)

time, but the paralysis and confusion that has overtaken the capital demonstrates the need to confront this dysfunction directly and take decisive steps to solve it once and for all." there hasn't been a constitutional convention since 1967. embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario is reportedly expected to plead guilty to fraud charges later today. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately, a law enforcement source tells the daily news he will plead guilty to a felony charge of scheming to defraud the public. he is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not to do business with him. seminario has been in the assembly for almost 31-years. the 74-year-old faces up to 20- years in prison.

**Entry #31**

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News All Morning  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 9:35AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 27930  
Est. Publicity Value: \$749 (30 Seconds) \$1498 (Total)

embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario is reportedly expected to plead guilty to fraud charges later today. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately, a law enforcement source tells the daily news he will plead guilty to a felony charge of scheming to defraud the public. he is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments.

**Entry #32:**

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News All Morning  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 9:07AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 27930  
Est. Publicity Value: \$749 (30 Seconds) \$1498 (Total)

time, but the paralysis and confusion that has overtaken the capital demonstrates the need to confront this dysfunction directly and take decisive steps to solve it once and for all." there hasn't been a constitutional convention since 1967. embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario is reportedly expected to plead guilty to fraud charges later today. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately, a law enforcement source tells the daily news he will plead guilty to a felony charge of scheming to defraud the public. he is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not to do business with him. seminario has been in the assembly for almost 31-years. the 74-year-old faces up to 20- years in prison. federal investigators are checking the cell phone and

**Entry #33**

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News All Morning  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 8:34AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 33720  
Est. Publicity Value: \$1007 (30 Seconds) \$2014 (Total)

will keep the senators in albany until they settle their leadership dispute. he says the senators need to be punished and should have to stay in albany every day, including weekends and holidays. that brings us to our snap you think yes.. thrown them all out.. or b if you think no matter what happens, they'll probably be re-elected.. or press c if you think some key figures may get the boot. you can tell us your embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario is reportedly expected to plead guilty to fraud charges later today.

**Entry #34**

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News All Morning  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 8:06AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 33720  
Est. Publicity Value: \$1007 (30 Seconds) \$2014 (Total)

embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario is reportedly expected to plead guilty to fraud charges later today. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately, a law enforcement source tells the daily news he will plead guilty to a felony charge of scheming to defraud the public. he is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state and allegedly created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not to do business with him. seminario has been in the assembly for almost 31-years. the 74-year-old faces up to

**Entry #35**

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News All Morning  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 7:35AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 46182  
Est. Publicity Value: \$1047 (30 Seconds) \$2094 (Total)

embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario is reportedly expected to plead guilty to fraud charges later today. seminario resigned yesterday, effective immediately, a law enforcement source tells the daily news he will plead guilty to a felony charge of scheming to defraud the public. he is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. federal prosecutors say he took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the

**Entry #36**

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News First  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 5:06AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 9335  
Est. Publicity Value: \$275 (30 Seconds) \$550 (Total)

andrew cuomo says the people of new york are counting on the senators to vote on key issues that can't be put off. "my advice to them is very simple: put your political business aside and do the people's business, period. that's what this is all about, people have very real problems as we see today, and the people's business comes first and i hope they put everything else aside and focus on the people's business." cuomo says the senate should work as though there's a 50-50 split among democrats and republicans. he says other governments find ways to work effectively when they're embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario resigns, effective immediately. seminario is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. he allegedly took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state. federal prosecutors say he created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to

**Entry #37**

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News All Night  
NY1 (NY1)New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 3:36AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 3897  
Est. Publicity Value: \$198 (30 Seconds) \$396 (Total)

embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminario resigns, effective immediately. seminario is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. he allegedly took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state. federal prosecutors say he created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not to do business with him. some people in seminario's district had mixed reactions about his resignation. "he shouldn't have quit, because just by quitting, he's basically saying 'yeah, i did do it, so i am just going to give up w/ // he should be done

his job more than any others. some of the people that i can't mention don't do their job and they get a good pay." seminerio has been in the assembly for almost

Entry #38



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News All Night  
NY1 (NY1) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 2:36AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 6884

Est. Publicity Value: \$198 (30 Seconds) \$396 (Total)  
actually sent them, and that's very disappointing." meanwhile, an agitated governor paterson says he will keep the senators in albany for as long as it takes to get things settled, he says the senators need to be punished and should have to stay in albany every day, including weekends and holidays. "they will stay here everyday until they resolve it, and there is no issue more important than the people's business. i am not interested in what they think of me or what they have to say that distracts us from getting the people's business done" earlier in the day more than a dozen democratic state senators unexpectedly took over the chamber hours before the special session was due to start...beating the republicans - who had announced their plans to arrive early, arrive early, embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio resigns, effective immediately, seminerio is currently under indictment for

Entry #39



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News All Night  
NY1 (NY1) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 2:06AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 6884

Est. Publicity Value: \$198 (30 Seconds) \$396 (Total)  
business aside and do the people's business, period. that's what this is all about, people have very real problems as we see today, and the people's business comes first and i hope they put everything else aside and focus on the people's business." cuomo says the senate should work as though there's a 50-50 split among democrats and republicans. he says other governments find ways to work effectively when they're embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio resigns, effective immediately. seminerio is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. he allegedly took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state. federal prosecutors say he created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not do business with him. some people in seminerio's district had mixed reactions about his resignation. "he shouldn't have quit, because just by quitting,

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News All Night  
NY1 (NY1) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 1:36AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 6732

Est. Publicity Value: \$198 (30 Seconds) \$396 (Total)  
and that's very disappointing." meanwhile, an agitated governor paterson says he will keep the senators in albany for as long as it takes to get things settled, he says the senators need to be punished and should have to stay in albany every day, including weekends and holidays. "they will stay here everyday until they resolve it, and there is no issue more important than the people's business. i am not interested in what they think of me or what they have to say that distracts us from getting the people's business done" earlier in the day more than a dozen democratic state senators unexpectedly took over the chamber hours before the special session was due to start...beating the republicans - who had announced their plans to arrive early, arrive early, embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio resigns, effective immediately. seminerio is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud

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News All Night  
NY1 (NY1) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 1:06AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 6732

Est. Publicity Value: \$198 (30 Seconds) \$396 (Total)  
about, people have very real problems as we see today, and the people's business comes first and i hope they put everything else aside and focus on the people's business." cuomo says the senate should work as though there's a 50-50 split among democrats and republicans. he says other governments find ways to work effectively when they're embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio resigns, effective immediately. seminerio is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation: he allegedly took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state. federal prosecutors say he created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not do business with him. some people in seminerio's district had mixed reactions about his resignation. "he shouldn't have quit, because just by quitting, he's basically sing 'yeah, i did do it, so i am'

Entry #42



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News All Night  
NY1 (NY1) New York, NY DMA: 1  
Jun 24 2009 12:36AM EDT  
Programming Type: News  
Est. Households/Views: 8633

Est. Publicity Value: \$326 (30 Seconds) \$652 (Total)  
embattled queens assemblyman anthony seminerio resigns, effective immediately. seminerio is currently under indictment for alleged theft and fraud following an f-b-i investigation. he allegedly took a million dollars in payments from companies doing business with the state. federal prosecutors say he created a fake consulting firm in april of 2000 to hide the payments. he is also accused of threatening companies that would not do business with him. some people in seminerio's district had mixed reactions about his resignation. "he shouldn't have quit, because just by quitting, he's basically saying 'yeah, i did do it, so i am just going to give up now' // "he should be done his job more than any others. some of the people that i can't mention don't do their job and they get a good pay." seminerio has been in the assembly for almost

Total Number of Clips: 42

Cumulative Est. Audience: 685,030

Cumulative Est. Publicity Value: \$41,834 (Sum of Clip Totals)

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June 25, 2009

## Democratic Assemblyman Pleads Guilty to Soliciting Payments

By **COLIN MOYNIHAN**

Saying that he knew his "conduct was illegal and wrong," a longtime Democratic member of the New York State Assembly, Anthony Seminerio, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to abusing his position by soliciting for himself an amount prosecutors estimated at \$500,000.

Mr. Seminerio, 74, represented the 38th District in southwestern Queens for more than 30 years before resigning this week. Federal prosecutors said that for the last decade he traded upon his office, receiving "corrupt payments" from people or organizations that had business before the state and sometimes threatening those who resisted his requests for money.

The payments were funneled into a company called Marc Consultants that Mr. Seminerio created to hide the income, prosecutors said.

Mr. Seminerio told Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald in Federal District Court in Manhattan that one of the organizations that paid him for wielding his political influence was Jamaica Hospital Medical Center, in Queens. It was the first public mention of Jamaica Hospital, which before the hearing had been referred to in court papers merely as "a hospital in New York City."

Appearing before the judge around noon on Wednesday, Mr. Seminerio, unshaven but wearing a blazer and a tie, declared in a firm voice that he was guilty of the charge of honest services fraud. In a brief statement he acknowledged that on July 10, 2008, he "promoted the interests" of Jamaica Hospital in connection with state business and did not divulge that he had received payments from the hospital.

"My conduct had the effect of depriving others of honest services," he said. Prosecutors stated that the hospital had paid Marc Consultants about \$310,000 and that "a separate, Medicaid-managed health care plan" affiliated with the hospital paid another \$80,000. At the request of hospital officers, prosecutors said, Mr. Seminerio acted as an advocate with legislators and lobbied on their behalf with executive branch officials.

A criminal complaint states that on numerous occasions Mr. Seminerio "took action in his capacity as a member of the Assembly to benefit the hospital at the same time that he was receiving payments from the hospital."

The complaint also details recorded conversations in which hospital officials asked Mr. Seminerio to intervene in state budget decisions and in which Mr. Seminerio urged a Health Department official to help Jamaica Hospital take over another hospital.

After the hearing a spokesman for the hospital said, "Jamaica Hospital Medical Center has and continues to

cooperate with the authorities, voluntarily providing the government with information it requests."

In the course of the investigation, federal agents intercepted Mr. Seminerio's communications and used a cooperating witness to record conversations with him. They also recorded his conversations with an undercover F.B.I. agent who paid \$25,000 to Mr. Seminerio while posing as a developer, prosecutors said. In exchange, Mr. Seminerio was said to have agreed to help secure tax credits for redevelopment projects in environmentally contaminated areas and to propose legislation with provisions suggested by the agent.

During one recorded conversation with the agent, Mr. Seminerio spoke contemptuously of people who benefited financially from what he termed "favors" offered without charge. "From now on, you know, I'm a consultant," he said.

A superseding indictment stated that on one occasion Mr. Seminerio threatened to sabotage relationships between the executive of a nonprofit organization and legislators in Albany when Mr. Seminerio's services were declined.

The guilty plea by Mr. Seminerio carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and fines that could exceed \$250,000. In a letter to Mr. Seminerio's lawyers, federal prosecutors wrote that they believed that an appropriate penalty would be a prison term of 135 to 168 months, along with a fine of up to \$175,000.

Mr. Seminerio is scheduled to return to court on Oct. 20 for a hearing regarding sentencing. William Harrington, an assistant United States attorney, told the judge the government expected to present evidence of other criminal actions.

After pleading guilty Mr. Seminerio joined his lawyers in the courthouse cafeteria, where he sat at a round table and drank from a tall paper cup. Later, he emerged onto Worth Street, where he spoke briefly to about a dozen journalists who followed him to a subterranean parking garage.

"I want to apologize to my colleagues and my constituents," he said. "And to my wife and family."

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# NEW YORK POST

## FORMER STATE ASSEMBLYMAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FRAUD

POST STAFF REPORT

June 24, 2009 --

Sprint

Former Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio pleaded guilty today to fraud charges.

Seminerio, who resigned yesterday, could face up to 13 years in prison when he is sentenced in Manhattan federal court on Oct. 20.

He remains free on bond.

Seminerio, 74, who has been an assemblyman for over 30 years, allegedly took \$1 million from various companies doing business with the state, creating a fake consulting firm in 2000 to hide those payments.

Seminerio, a Democrat, also faces as much as a \$175,000 fine for his involvement in the alleged wrongdoing.



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# Anthony Seminerio's 30 years in office ends with 11 to 14 in prison

BY THOMAS ZAMBITO  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Thursday, June 25th 2009, 4:00 AM

Former Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio faces 14 years in prison after pleading guilty to taking secret payments from Jamaica Hospital officials.

In a booming voice, the tough-on-crime Democrat put the finishing touches on a 30-year legislative career with three words: "Guilty, your honor."

"I knew that my conduct was illegal and wrong, your honor," Seminerio told Manhattan Federal Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald on Wednesday.

Seminerio, 74, resigned his seat representing Queens' 38th District Tuesday.

Manhattan federal prosecutors say he pocketed more than \$1 million in consulting fees by promising hospitals, nonprofits and others inside access in Albany.

His guilty plea to a single count of honest-services fraud covers the July 10, 2008, call to a state Health Department official on behalf of Jamaica Hospital, which was looking to purchase other hospitals.

What Seminerio failed to reveal during that chat was that between April 2000 and September 2008 he'd raked in \$310,000 in consulting fees from the hospital.

He faces 11 to 14 years in prison when he's sentenced Oct. 20.

The feds intercepted more than 15,000 calls on Seminerio's office phone and listened in while the chatty ex-jail guard boasted to an informant about his clout.

"I am at your disposal," he told a hospital official in March 2008. "You tell me what you want. I'll take care of you."

Twice, he brought onto the Assembly floor an undercover FBI agent posing as a businessman seeking contracts in Albany, prosecutors say.

Despite the guilty plea, Seminerio is still eligible for a pension that would pay him as much as \$68,000 a year, according to state officials.

The agent was introduced to him by Brian McLaughlin, a Queens Democrat, labor leader and fellow assemblyman. At the time, McLaughlin was under indictment for using his position to steal \$2.2 million in cash, cars and perks.

[tzambito@nydailynews.com](mailto:tzambito@nydailynews.com)



## Assemblyman quits, to plead guilty

Anthony Seminerio is expected to settle fraud, extortion counts

By JAMES M. ODATO, Capitol bureau

**Click byline for more stories by writer.**

First published: Wednesday, June 24, 2009

ALBANY -- Indicted Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio resigned at the finish of the chamber's session Tuesday, and planned to plead guilty today to a felony charge of defrauding the public of honest services, his lawyer said.

Seminerio had no comment, but defense attorney Pery D. Krinsky said the Queens Democrat will be entering a plea today in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

The guilty plea will answer the charge lodged by the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan in an indictment last year alleging honest services fraud. In March, the prosecutor tacked on more accusations, claiming the veteran lawmaker committed extortion.

The federal prosecutor had alleged Seminerio abused his office by inducing clients to his private consulting firm with the boast of being able to take care of them in Albany or penalize them if they did not sign on with him.

Seminerio "regrets the pain he has caused his family, colleagues and former constituents whom he served for more than three decades," Krinsky said.

The 74-year-old former New York City prison guard "looks forward to putting behind him this difficult chapter of his life, and to spending time with his family and loved ones," his attorney added.

Seminerio has nearly 47 years of state pension credits, including 15 years in corrections and almost 31 years in the Assembly.

Federal investigators taped Seminerio extensively, recording dozens of hours of conversation.

The case against Seminerio was aided by former Queens politician and labor leader Brian M. McLaughlin, who quit the Assembly after he was indicted in 2006. In 2008, McLaughlin pleaded guilty to federal charges of racketeering and embezzlement. He received a 10-year prison term and agreed to forfeit more than \$3 million.

In his resignation letter to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Seminerio said "it was my honor and distinct privilege to have served in the Legislature the last 30 years."

JUNE 24, 2009, 1:41 PM

## Queens Assemblyman Pleads Guilty in Corruption Case

By COLIN MOYNIHAN AND A. G. SULZBERGER

John Marshall Mantel for The New York Times Anthony S. Seminerio exiting court after pleading guilty on Wednesday.

Anthony S. Seminerio, a longtime state assemblyman from Queens, pleaded guilty on Wednesday to influence-peddling.

A former prison guard who served in the State Legislature for three decades before resigning on Tuesday, Mr. Seminerio was arrested last fall and accused of taking more than \$1 million in exchange for legislative favors since 1999.

Appearing in Federal District Court in Manhattan, Mr. Seminerio pleaded guilty to a single charge of fraud. He read a statement that lasted about a minute, saying, "I knew that my conduct was illegal and wrong."

Mr. Seminerio faces up to 20 years in prison. The United States attorney's office has recommended a sentence of 11 to 14 years and a fine of \$17,500 to \$175,000. He will return to court on Oct. 20 for a hearing regarding sentencing.

Dressed in gray flannel trousers and a blue blazer, Mr. Seminerio was polite and attentive throughout the hearing, telling the courtroom that he was "74 and a half" when asked his age and that he was "feeling O.K." when asked about his health. When Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald asked for his plea, he responded in a loud and clear voice: "Guilty, your honor."

The indictment in the case said that one New York City hospital, which was not identified, paid Mr. Seminerio \$310,000 through a consulting firm for favorable treatment. In his statement, Mr. Seminerio said he had, at one point, "promoted the interests of Jamaica Hospital in connection to a New York State matter."

Mr. Seminerio said he was a paid consultant at the hospital, which is in Queens.

The conviction is yet another blow to a State Legislature that has been rife with dysfunction — thanks in part to the partisan deadlock that has paralyzed the State Senate — with a string of current and former members land in court or in jail, many on corruption related charges.

Indeed, this case was built in part with the assistance of Brian M. McLaughlin, another former assemblyman from the Queens, who was sentenced in May to 10 years in prison on racketeering charges that included using embezzlement, fraud and bribes.

Prosecutors described Mr. Seminerio, a Democrat, as particularly bold in his pursuit of money in exchange for political favors. According to the indictment, he told executives at businesses with dealings with the State Legislature that he could help them if they hired a sham consulting firm he had set up, and that he could make life more difficult for them if they refused.

In another example in the indictment, he persuaded an executive at an organization dependent on state financing to pay him \$700 a month for two years after threatening to "kill" any bill the executive was pressing. Between February and June of last year, Mr. Seminerio accepted payments of \$5,000 a month for political favors from an undercover agent, according to the indictment.

As he walked out of the courthouse, he added a brief statement: "I want to apologize to my colleagues and my constituents, and to my wife and my family."

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## Guilty Parties: Council Aides to Cop Pleas

By Tom Robbins in Crime and Punishment,  
Featured, Politics, Tom Robbins

Wednesday, Jun. 24 2009 @ 10:05AM



Two former top aides to Brooklyn City Council member and foot-doctor Kendall Stewart (*pictured*) have a date in court tomorrow to plead guilty to embezzlement charges stemming from last year's massive probe into member item slush funds.

Asquith Reid, Stewart's former chief of staff, and Joycynth Anderson, another ex-council staffer, will plead guilty before Judge Victor Marrero in Manhattan federal court, according to a letter filed with the court last week by prosecutors. The pleas were reported yesterday by British Caribbean News.

In an April, 2008 indictment resulting from a joint city and federal probe, Reid and Anderson were charged with conspiring to swipe \$145,000 in city funds earmarked for a charity honoring Reid's late daughter. Reid allegedly routed \$31,000 to family members in Jamaica, while another \$18,000 went to Stewart's political club. The council member said he knew nothing of the scams and was not charged.

A challenger to Stewart in this year's council elections, Jumaane Williams, is calling on Stewart to resign. "Our councilmember should deliver for our community, not take from our community. Kendall Stewart cannot claim ignorance," said Williams in a press release. "He must resign."

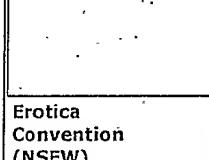
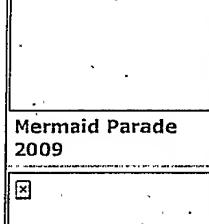
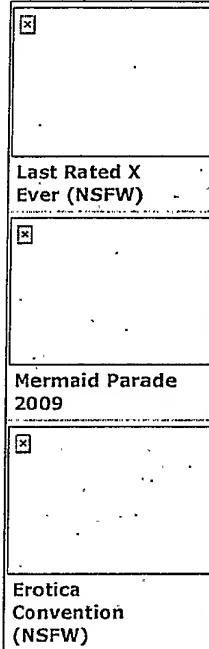
Apparently it's good weather for guilty pleas. Veteran Queens assemblyman Anthony Seminario will cop his own plea to a somewhat larger scheme this afternoon in the same Manhattan federal court. Seminario set up his own secret consulting firm, pocketing some \$1 million in fees from clients.

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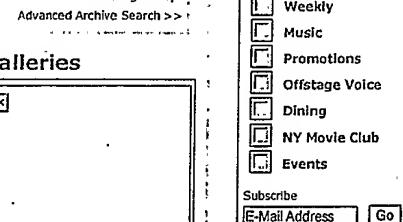
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Thursday, June 25, 2009



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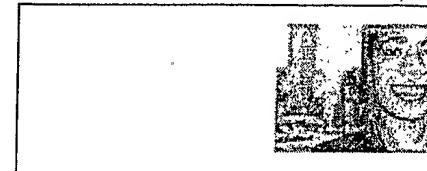
#### Former State assemblyman pleads guilty to 'honest services' mail fraud

NEW YORK -- Former New York State Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio Wednesday pled guilty in Manhattan federal court to defrauding the public of his honest services.

Seminerio, who represented the 38th Assembly District in Queens until his resignation Tuesday, admitted to using a consulting firm he controlled to receive corrupt payments from various entities with business before the state.

From 1999 through September 2008, while an assemblyman, he engaged in a scheme to defraud the public of his honest services by using a purported consulting firm, "Marc Consultants," to solicit and receive "consulting" payments from persons and entities having business before the state.

Seminerio did little or no consulting work but received about \$1 million from those entities, who benefited from favorable treatment within state government.



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June 24, 2009

## Assemblyman Steps Down and Admits Guilt in Scheme

By **JAMES BARRON**

Assemblyman Anthony S. Seminerio, a Democrat from Queens, has resigned his legislative post and will plead guilty on Wednesday to influence-peddling charges, his lawyer said on Tuesday.

Mr. Seminerio's resignation took effect on Monday. He was arrested last fall after a single-count indictment accused him of soliciting and receiving "a stream of corrupt payments" from 1999 to 2008.

Prosecutors said Mr. Seminerio charged for his services as a legislator, pocketing about \$1 million and arranging "favorable treatment" for the businesses that paid him. The money was channeled through a consulting company that Mr. Seminerio set up.

The indictment said that one New York City hospital — not identified in the charges — had paid Mr. Seminerio \$310,000 through the consulting firm.

The indictment also said that Mr. Seminerio met with the president of a Queens nonprofit group that depended heavily on state financing. Mr. Seminerio threatened to "kill" any bills the executive was pressing for unless the executive hired Mr. Seminerio. The indictment said Mr. Seminerio proposed a \$700-a-month fee, which the group paid for about two years.

The indictment also said an undercover agent posing as a client paid Mr. Seminerio's consulting company \$25,000 between February and June of last year. The agent told Mr. Seminerio that he wanted access to other members of the Legislature in connection with a bill to privatize elements of the state's probation system.

The indictment said that Mr. Seminerio charged a monthly fee of \$5,000, and complained in mid-April that "he had not received 'anything' for March and 'April's almost gone.'"

The indictment said the agent gave Mr. Seminerio a \$5,000 check in an Albany restaurant after Mr. Seminerio had complained about not receiving "anything," and Mr. Seminerio said it was "against protocol" to hand over payments in the state office building where he worked.

Mr. Seminerio's lawyer, Pery D. Krinsky, said that Mr. Seminerio would appear before Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald in Federal District Court in Manhattan on Wednesday.

Mr. Seminerio, who is 74 and was an assemblyman for 31 years, "looks forward to putting behind him this difficult chapter of his life, and to spending time with his family and loved ones," Mr. Krinsky said. Mr. Seminerio could face up to 20 years in prison.

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# Embattled Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio quits, is expected to plead guilty to fraud charges

BY KENNETH LOVETT  
DAILY NEWS ALBANY BUREAU CHIEF

Updated Tuesday, June 23rd 2009, 9:04 PM

**ALBANY** - Indicted Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio suddenly resigned his seat Tuesday - and will plead guilty to a fraud charge.

Seminerio (D-Queens) issued a letter to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver saying he's quitting effective Tuesday, Silver spokesman Dan Weiller said.

A law enforcement source said Seminerio will plead guilty today to a felony charge of scheming to defraud the public.

Seminerio's lawyer Pery Krinsky confirmed the plea.

"Mr. Seminerio ... regrets the pain he has caused to his family, his colleagues and to his former constituents whom he served for more than three decades," Krinsky said.

Seminerio, 74, was first charged in September with pocketing \$1 million in payoffs through a sham consulting company that offered favors to entities with business before the state.

In March, the feds added an extortion charge, saying Seminerio threatened to "kill" legislation backed by a nonprofit executive who refused to hire him.

The retired city prison guard was elected to the Assembly 16 times. He faces up to 20 years behind bars, but is likely to get far less.



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Anthony Seminario

Comment (No comments posted.) Email To A Friend

Indicted former state Assemblyman Anthony Seminario (D-Richmond Hill) pleaded guilty Wednesday in Manhattan Federal Court to setting up a fake consulting business to collect corrupt payments from entities seeking his influence as a legislator, including Jamaica Hospital, the U.S. attorney's office for the Southern District of New York said.

The plea came a day after Seminario abruptly resigned from the Assembly after more than 30 years in office.

Seminario, 74, is scheduled to be sentenced Oct. 20 after pleading guilty to defrauding the public of his honest services before U.S. District Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald, the U.S. attorney said.

"Instead of using his office to help New Yorkers, Anthony Seminario used his office to help himself," acting U.S. Attorney Lev Dassin said in a statement. "Anthony Seminario was caught red-handed violating the law and the public's trust by taking hundreds of thousands of dollars in corrupt payments."

Seminario set up Marc Consultants, a fake consulting company, in 1999 and used it to funnel illegal payments from those seeking favorable treatment in Albany.

In pleading guilty, Seminario admitted that Jamaica Hospital paid him a consulting fee as it tried to acquire another hospital, federal prosecutors said.

Seminario did not disclose to a state Health Department official whom he had spoke to about the Jamaica Hospital matter.

"I knew that my conduct was illegal and wrong," the former assemblyman said when entering his plea, federal prosecutors said.

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First published: Thursday, June 25, 2009

Ex-assemblyman facing 20 years in prison

ALBANY -- Former Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio admitted Wednesday that he knew what he was doing was illegal when he shilled for a Queens hospital before a state official.

"I knew my conduct was illegal and wrong," Seminerio told a federal judge in Manhattan when he pleaded guilty to a felony charge of denying the public honest services. He faces up to 20 years in prison. An Oct. 20 hearing is set in the case.

Seminerio is eligible for 75 percent of his final average pay of \$90,750, or \$68,062 a year from the Common Retirement System, according to the State Comptroller's Office. The pension would be less if Seminerio chooses an optional benefit package to protect survivors. In his statement in court, the 74-year-old Queens Democrat who served as an assemblyman for nearly 31 years, admitted he acted as a consultant for Jamaica Hospital before a state agency official last summer. He did not let the state official know he was being paid as a representative of the hospital.

-- James M. Odato

FDNY disciplines 7 in fatal ground zero blaze

NEW YORK -- The city's fire department disciplined seven fire commanders Wednesday over mistakes that led to a 2007 blaze at a contaminated ground zero skyscraper that killed two firefighters.

A deputy chief and a captain at the lower Manhattan firehouse that first responded to the fire were permanently stripped of their commands for failing to follow through on orders to make sure the former Deutsche Bank building was properly inspected, said Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. Both men are working desk jobs, he said.

-- Associated Press

French connection at JFK includes police chase

NEW YORK -- Five French tourists got a harrowing start to their New York visit: a wild police chase.

As they looked for a ride at the Air France terminal at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Tuesday, the visitors were lured to a van that was not licensed to provide taxi service, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey spokesman John Kelly said.

Plainclothes police recognized the man who enticed the tourists, Ian McFarland, as a repeat offender. A Port Authority officer failed to grab the van keys, but the driver, Khaalif Preacher, sped off with the tourists inside, knocking the officer to the ground, Kelly said.

Police sped after the van, which snaked through residential streets and traveled about seven miles through two boroughs before it crashed through a gate at a U.S. Postal Service facility in Brooklyn. Both suspects were arrested.

-- Associated Press



## NY assemblyman pleads guilty

Associated Press - June 24, 2009 1:15 PM ET

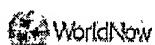
NEW YORK (AP) - A New York assemblyman accused of collecting \$1 million from people who did business with the state has pleaded guilty to fraud.

Anthony Seminerio (seh-muh-NEH'-ree-oh) entered the plea Wednesday in Manhattan. It came two days after he resigned from office.

Sentencing was set for Oct. 20. Prosecutors say federal sentencing guidelines call for the 74-year-old Queens resident to spend at least 11 years in prison.

Seminerio admitted that he failed to disclose a consulting fee from a hospital. He had advocated on its behalf last summer to a state agency.

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# Newsday.com

## NY assemblyman pleads guilty to fraud

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press Writer

June 24, 2009

NEW YORK

A New York assemblyman accused of collecting \$1 million from people who did business with the state pleaded guilty to fraud Wednesday in a plea deal that prosecutors said could result in a sentence of more than 11 years in prison.

Anthony Seminerio, 74, entered the plea before U.S. District Judge Naomi Reice Buchwald, who set sentencing for Oct. 20. The plea came two days after Seminerio resigned from office. He had represented New York's 38th Assembly district in Queens since 1978.

Prosecutors said in court papers that federal sentencing guidelines call for the Queens resident to spend at least 11 years in prison. Seminerio, who had heart surgery in 2003, takes medication for heart problems and high blood pressure, his lawyers said.

Standing before the judge, Seminerio described what he was admitting he had done wrong as he pleaded guilty to a single count of defrauding the public of his honest services.

Seminerio said he violated U.S. laws when he advocated for and promoted the interests of Jamaica Hospital in a July 10 conversation with the representative of a New York State agency without disclosing that he was a paid consultant for the hospital.

"In that conversation, I should have, but intentionally did not, disclose to the representative of the New York State agency the fact that I was being paid a consulting fee by Jamaica Hospital," he told Buchwald.

"My conduct had the effect of depriving others of the right of honest services," he said. "I knew that my conduct was illegal and wrong."

The plea came after prosecutors in March expanded the case against Seminerio, saying he used his consulting firm, Marc Consultants, to solicit and receive payments of about \$1 million from 1999 through last September.

The government said he accepted the payments from people and entities having business with the state even though he did little or no consulting work.

### Can You Really Work Online At Home? We Investigate This Trend.

By John B. Griswold

For years we've all heard the stories of people making internet millions and now, it appears you don't have to be a technology guru at all to quickly get started making a decent income online. It's called Money Master and it's taking the internet and business communities alike by storm.

Prosecutors said the entities making payments to him included an educational institution, hospitals and a firm engaged in marketing supplemental insurance packages to public institutions.

In a statement issued after the plea Wednesday, Seminerio's lawyers said their client "regrets the pain he has caused to his family, colleagues and former constituents, whom he served for more than three decades."

It added: "Mr. Seminerio looks forward to putting behind him this difficult chapter of his life and to spending time with his family and loved ones."

Seminerio remains free on bail.

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## Indicted NYC assemblyman resigns

Associated Press - June 23, 2009 3:45 PM ET

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) - A New York City assemblyman charged with collecting \$1 million from people who did business with the state is resigning, effective immediately.

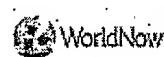
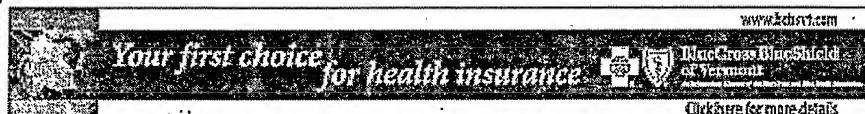
Anthony Seminerio (seh-muh-NEH'-ree-oh) sent a short letter of resignation to the Assembly speaker Monday night. He doesn't give a reason.

Federal prosecutors accuse Seminerio, of Queens, of creating a bogus consulting firm to hide payments to him. Prosecutors say that between 2000 and September 2008, Seminerio got payments from people who wanted favorable treatment in Albany.

They say he sometimes threatened to make people's lives miserable if they didn't pay.

Seminerio, 74 and in the Assembly since 1978, has said he is innocent. He could get up to 20 years in prison if convicted on the corruption charges.

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## **NY assemblyman pleaded guilty to fraud**

Published: June 24, 2009 - 1:40 pm

(AP) - A New York assemblyman accused of collecting \$1 million from people who did business with the state has pleaded guilty to fraud.

Anthony Seminerio entered the plea Wednesday in Manhattan. It came two days after he resigned from office.

Sentencing was set for Oct. 20. Prosecutors say federal sentencing guidelines call for the 74-year-old Queens resident to spend at least 11 years in prison.

Mr. Seminerio admitted that he failed to disclose a consulting fee from a hospital. He had advocated on its behalf last summer to a state agency.

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**POLITICS & ELECTIONS** 

**Indicted NYC assemblyman resigns**

Wednesday, June 24, 2009 | 10:21 AM

 Associated Press

**ALBANY -- A New York City assemblyman charged with collecting \$1 million from people who did business with the state is resigning, effective immediately.**

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They say he sometimes threatened to make people's lives miserable if they didn't pay.

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Seminerio, 74 and in the Assembly since 1978, has said he is innocent. He could get up to 20 years in prison if convicted on the corruption charges.

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## Seminario Steps Down, Pleads Guilty

By Joseph Orovic

Assemblyman Anthony Seminario (D-Richmond Hill) handed a letter of resignation to Speaker Sheldon Silver (D-Manhattan) on Tuesday, then pleaded guilty to influence peddling on Wednesday, ending a 16-term state Assembly career.

Seminario reportedly read a minute-long statement at Federal District Court in Manhattan, where he reportedly admitted to knowingly committing illegal acts.

The United States Attorney's office recommended a 11-to-14-year sentence for the 74-year-old, as well as a fine ranging from \$17,500 to \$175,000. His sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 20.

Seminario ran uncontested for his 16th term in November despite pending corruption charges. He was arrested following a federal investigation into his consulting practice in September, accused of taking more than \$500,000 in bribes.

The veteran lawmaker was fingered during the undercover operation that included recorded meetings. In one session, he allegedly admitted that he had started the consulting firm as a means of getting paid for political favors.

"I was doing favors for these sons of bitches... They were making thousands," he said in the recordings. "Screw you, from now on, you know, I'm a consultant."

The race to replace him has already started brewing.

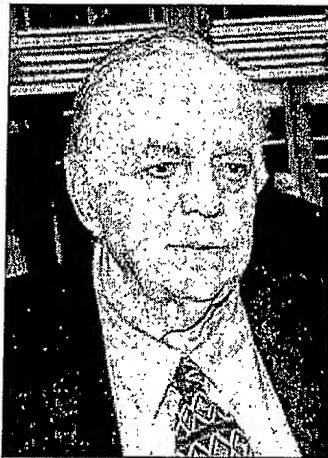
On the same day of his resignation, three candidates announced their intention to replace him. Former state Senate candidate Albert Baldeo, as well as Nick Commaiani and Donna Marie Caltabiano - both community activists, plan to run for the vacant seat, whether it be in a special election or general election in November.

The governor has yet to announce how the vacant seat will be filled.

Baldeo, a South Ozone Park immigration lawyer and Democrat, enters the race with \$107,000 in his campaign coffers.

"I've continued to be active with local civic groups and continue to help the community," Baldeo said. "I've also gotten a good relationship with local state Senators."

Woodhaven resident and Forest Park Senior Citizens Center director Caltabiano has served on School Board 27 and Community Planning Board 9 for 14 years, which she said gives her name recognition within the southern part of the district. The Republican hopes the governor will call for a special election.



Anthony Seminario

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"Our Assembly district is not going to get any member items," she said, referring to Silver's refusal to accept any pork proposed by Seminerio. "That's not fair that the district should have their member items withheld because of the alleged misdeeds of Seminerio."

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Commaiani brings a history of volunteerism. He serves on Community Board 9, the Community Education Council for District 24 and the Glendale Civic Association. He also served in the Navy.

"I'm a volunteer — that's always what I've been. This is why I decided to run," he said.

# NEW YORK POST

## FEDS SLAP QUEENS LAWMAKER WITH MORE CHARGES

By BRUCE GOLDING

*March 24, 2009 --*

A day after State Sen. Hiram Monserrate was indicted on assault charges in Queens, another Democratic lawmaker is in trouble.

The US Attorney's Office in Manhattan slapped Assemblyman Tony Seminero, a 73-year-old lawmaker from Queens, with a superseding indictment that adds additional allegations of what the feds called "extortionate acts."

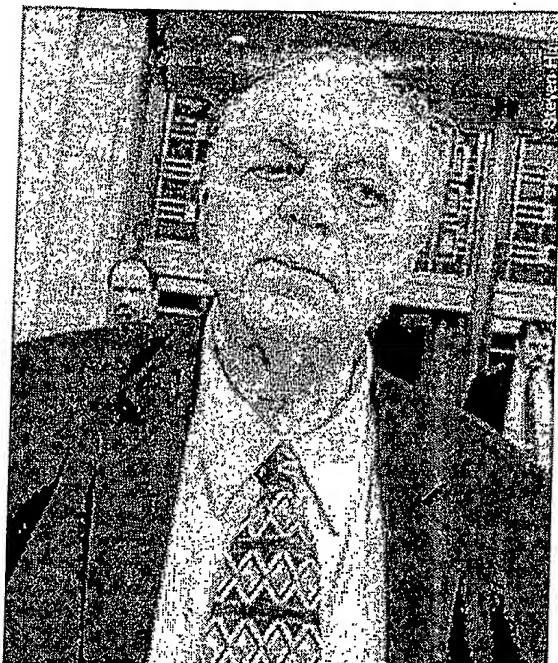
Seminero was originally indicted in December on influence-peddling charges. He had pleaded not guilty to those charges.

The US attorney has charged that Seminero pocketed \$1 million by running a "consulting firm" through which he shook down people seeking to do business with the state.

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March 25, 2009

## New Allegations Are Added to Seminerio's Indictment

By **BENJAMIN WEISER**

About 10 years ago, Anthony S. Seminerio, an assemblyman from Queens, began asking the president of a Queens nonprofit to hire his consulting firm, prosecutors said.

The executive, whose organization depended on the state for much of its financing, did not respond. The next year, according to a revised indictment announced on Tuesday, Mr. Seminerio met with the executive in his legislative office in Albany, and said he had been patient for too long and that if the executive did not hire him, he would "kill" any bill that the executive tried to have passed.

After that meeting, the indictment said, the executive hired Mr. Seminerio, who proposed a monthly fee of \$700 and was retained for about two years.

The indictment, filed by federal prosecutors in Manhattan, adds new allegations against Mr. Seminerio, who was originally indicted last year in a corruption case. The initial indictment said that since 2000, Mr. Seminerio had received about \$1 million in consulting fees from hospitals and other entities that had business before the state, and in exchange he rewarded them with "favorable treatment" in Albany.

When prosecutors first charged the 74-year-old Democrat, who was first elected in 1978, one official said he had "put his office up for sale for those willing to pay the right price."

The revised indictment adds accusations of trying to extort executives.

The nonprofit was not Mr. Seminerio's only target, according to prosecutors. In 1999, the revised indictment says, he approached the founder of a Queens-based consulting business and demanded 50 percent of the firm's gross receipts.

When the executive resisted his demands, Mr. Seminerio, who had his own consulting business, retaliated, the indictment says. The document says that he wrote or called many of the other firm's clients, pressing them to stop paying that firm and to hire his, because he "could do things that the consultant could not."

The other firm, which has not been identified, lost its client base as a result, and had to shut down its political consulting business, the indictment says. Prosecutors did not disclose the identities of the nonprofit, its executive or the consulting firm.

The indictment also says that beginning in 2004, Mr. Seminerio tried to get a hospital executive to hire his firm, and when the executive said that that would not be appropriate, Mr. Seminerio asked if the executive "knew how miserable" he could make his life.

Mr. Seminerio is free on bond pending trial. His lawyer, Pery D. Krinsky, had no comment. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison, prosecutors said.

*Jeremy W. Peters contributed reporting.*

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# Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio hit with new extortion charges

BY THOMAS ZAMBITO  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Wednesday, March 25th 2009, 4:00 AM

A Queens assemblyman - already charged with taking \$1 million in payoffs - faces new accusations that he strong-armed people who balked at paying his bribes.

Anthony Seminerio was slapped with extortion charges Tuesday by federal prosecutors looking to step up the pressure on the 74-year-old lawmaker.

Seminerio already had been indicted on charges he accepted \$1 million in bogus "fees" for his consulting firm from companies trying to do business in Albany.

In the latest charge, the feds say Seminerio threatened to "kill" legislation backed by a nonprofit executive who refused to hire the veteran Democrat.

The new claims may be an effort to force Seminerio into accepting a guilty plea. Two weeks ago, Seminerio's lawyers revealed that both sides are trying to work out a deal.

A hearing has been scheduled for Thursday in Manhattan Federal Court. Seminerio faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

A new indictment accuses Seminerio of repeatedly pressuring the unnamed executive to hire his consulting firm and promised to "bury" him for dealing with a rival consultant.

After a January 2000 meeting in Albany, the executive agreed to sign up Seminerio. In return, Seminerio allegedly promised he wouldn't get too greedy - using a Sicilian colloquialism popularized by the mob.

"Explaining that he would not be a *gavone* about the fee, Seminerio proposed a monthly fee of \$700," the indictment claims.

The executive broke off the contract after two years.

Seminerio attorney Perry Krinsky declined to comment on the new allegations.

The new indictment adds that in 1999 Seminerio approached a Queens political consultant and demanded a 50% share of his business. Seminerio called or wrote the consultant's clients, pressuring them to hire him. The consultant was eventually forced to close shop when all his clients left.

[tzambito@nydailynews.com](mailto:tzambito@nydailynews.com)

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database.

## Seminario Round Two Feds Show Extort Plot

By Michael Lanza

Assemblyman Anthony Seminario (D-Glendale) faced more allegations Tuesday as prosecutors issued a new indictment charging the embattled pol with extortion.

The indictment alleges that Seminario threatened various Queens executives as he sought cash and cooperation in the pay-to-play scheme.

The indictment includes charges that Seminario threatened to "bury" an unnamed Queens hospital executive after seeking the services of a rival health care consultation firm.

Seminario then threatened to kill any legislation the executive brought to Albany, according to the indictment.

Tuesday's indictment supersedes an original filed in December, when the Queens Democrat first faced federal corruption charges.

Seminario, 73, was charged with one count of honest services mail fraud after allegedly taking approximately \$1 million from various businesses in exchange for political favors. The initial complaint had cited half that, approximately \$500,000 in illegal payments.

The indictment accused Seminario of defrauding the public of his honest services through a phony consulting firm, Marc Consultants, to solicit and receive "consulting" payments from persons and entities with business before the state. Seminario allegedly received approximately \$1 million from those entities in exchange for favorable treatment from the state government, the indictment said. The organizations included hospitals, a consulting firm with links to an educational institution and a business marketing supplemental insurance packages to public institutions.

The veteran lawmaker was fingered during an undercover operation that included recorded meetings. In one session, he allegedly admitted that he had started the consulting firm as a means of getting paid for political favors.

"I was doing favors for these sons of bitches... They were making thousands," he said. "Screw you, from now on, you know, I'm a consultant."

Seminario ran uncontested for a 16th term in November despite the pending indictment.

If convicted, Seminario faces up to 20 years in prison.

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## NY investigation commission faces possible sunset

By VALERIE BAUMAN and MICHAEL VIRTANEN | Associated Press Writers  
March 14, 2009

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ALBANY, N.Y. - In the 1950s and '60s, the State Commission of Investigation put away mobsters nabbed at the 1957 clandestine gangland meeting in the Southern Tier town of Apalachin that confirmed the existence of the [Mafia](#) in America.

Since the 1970s, it took on crooked judges, cops on the take, corrupt union bosses and politicians and drug labs.

But, in a town known for some notorious lawbreakers among its 212 lawmakers, many say [New York](#) politics did what organized crime couldn't: It iced Albany's top cop.

The Commission of Investigation, which hasn't fully investigated an elected state official in at least 30 years, will end March 31 unless the state Legislature that good-government groups say made it a shadow of its former self renews the SIC's enabling legislation.

Gov. David Paterson proposed saving \$4.15 million in the next fiscal year by letting the SIC sunset.

"When it comes to political corruption, the SIC has been MIA," said Blair Horner, legislative director for the New York Public Interest Research Group.

Horner believes the lack of action against lawmakers can be attributed, in part, to political influence. Commissioners are appointed by the Senate majority leader, the Assembly speaker and the governor, making them less likely to investigate those who gave them their annual jobs, he said. They are paid a \$101,600 annual salary, except for Chairman Alfred Lerner, who is paid \$109,800.

The commission, for example, didn't investigate former Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who resigned in 2008 after he was named in a federal prostitution investigation; or former Health Commissioner Antonia Novello, accused of using state workers to chauffeur her on shopping sprees; or former Comptroller Alan Hevesi who pleaded guilty in 2006 to using state workers as chauffeurs and companions for his wife.

In the Legislature, the SIC hasn't investigated Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio, accused of selling access to fellow lawmakers; or the criminal case of Sen. Hiram Monserrate, accused of assaulting his girlfriend with a broken glass; or Michael Boxley, counsel to powerful Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who was taken out of the Capitol in handcuffs, charged with rape and eventually pleaded guilty to sexual misconduct.

Also infamous, and untouched by the SIC, are the sexual exploits that led to a crackdown on the legislative intern program, and the many other lawmakers slapped with misdemeanors and felonies over the years.

As for the current biggest political investigation in Albany, former Senate Republican leader Joseph Bruno has been indicted by the federal government, accused of using his political position to reap millions of dollars as a consultant, claims the SIC found too flimsy to pursue.

"We don't go after anybody unless there is a complaint against someone," said George Friedman, one of six SIC commissioners. "We don't go looking for law violators."

In some cases, other investigative bodies just get to the cases first, Friedman said.

In Bruno's case, the commission was unable to investigate, due to a "very, very full plate," Friedman said.

"You have to balance the availability of your employees, what assets you can devote to which investigations," Friedman said. "The ones that seem the flimsiest fall by the wayside and don't get attended to."

"In New York City, where most of these things go on, you have five separate pros - district attorneys, full staffs - and they have the best police department in the world, fully staffed to invest in those activities," Friedman said.

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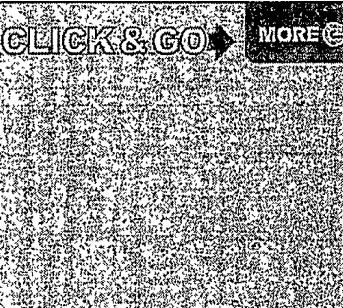
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Whether the SIC survives, is combined with other agencies or disappears, good-government groups argue that New York needs an entity monitoring lawmakers and the executive branch that's completely independent of political influence. If an effective, independent system was put in place, the broad powers the SIC has to issue subpoenas, and in some cases offer immunity in exchange for testimony, could be effective.

The Legislative Ethics Commission  
lawmakers since 1995. Twelve

The Senate Standing Committee on Ethics has not investigated a single senator in the past 10 years. Over the same period, the Assembly Standing Committee on Ethics and Guidance has investigated four lawmakers and taken action against three.

Only one had to resign — Democratic Assemblyman Roger Green of New York City in 2004 after 24 years in office. He pleaded guilty to three misdemeanors for stealing from the state by submitting fake travel claims for expenses he never incurred.

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March 25, 2009

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Mr. Seminerio is free on bond pending trial. His lawyer, Perry D. Krinsky, had no comment. If convicted, he faces up to 20 years in prison, prosecutors said.

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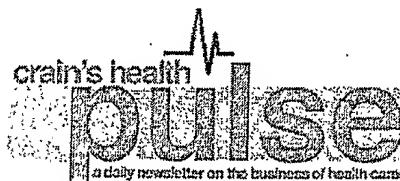
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Today's News Wednesday, March 25, 2009

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## Small Biz Faces New HMO Tax

New York's small businesses may be hit with another insurance tax. This week, legislators quietly put on the table a new tax on HMO premiums that would raise \$107 million for the state if implemented. The proposed tax replaces one that would have raised only \$50 million: an expansion of a patient services assessment to include office-based radiology and surgical procedures. The state's HMO enrollment has fallen as more people switch to insurance products such as PPOs. The proposed tax would hit hardest the groups that still gravitate to HMOs: workers at small businesses and people who buy HMO products in the individual market.

## Cancer Screenings Threatened

The Coalition to Save Cancer Screening, a group backed by heavyweights such as the American Cancer Society, is asking Health Commissioner Dr. Richard Daines to help preserve services under the state's Cancer Services Program. The group is lobbying the Legislature to reject the Executive Budget proposal for \$20.7 million in funding and to instead appropriate \$29 million, the real cost of services this year. The group estimates that without the extra money, thousands of at-risk clients in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Queens, Westchester and Long Island won't get screenings. "This outcome is contrary to the understanding program directors received that the \$20.7 million budget would not mean reducing screening to this priority population," wrote the ACS' New York lobbyist, Peter Slocum, in a letter to Dr. Daines this week.

## Military Aims for New Diagnostic Tool

Logical Images, a Rochester company that develops tools that help visually diagnose medical conditions, will have its technology licensed by the U.S. Department of Defense's military health system. DOD will pay \$2.4 million for the right to use the VisualDx product, the company's visual diagnostic decision support system product, at 75 military hospitals and 461 clinics worldwide. The product has a database of more than 900 visually identifiable diseases, including more than 125 international travel-related conditions. The military hospitals will use VisualDx to train military medical staff to better recognize such diseases as SARS, avian influenza and infectious diseases brought on by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapon exposure.

### Reporters:

Barbara Benson - (718) 855-3304

Gale Scott - (212) 210-0746

*Crain's Health Pulse* is available Monday through Friday by 6 a.m.

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## Extortion charge added to Seminerio indictment

The federal government yesterday added charges of extortion to its indictment of Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio. The original indictment, in September, on corruption charges did not include extortion. In addition, the latest charges include far more details.

Originally, the government alleged that as a consultant, Mr. Seminerio collected a check for \$310,000 from an unidentified New York City hospital and \$80,000 from its affiliated managed care plan, which were widely reported at the time to be the Medisys system headed by David Rosen. The intercepted communications show that Mr. Seminerio accepted payments from the hospital at the same time he lobbied the governor and took legislative positions with other lawmakers at the hospital's direction.

According to the new charges, on multiple occasions in the fall of 2004 Mr. Seminerio asked a senior executive of a different unidentified Queen-based hospital to retain the services of his firm, Marc Consultants. When the hospital executive refused, Mr. Seminerio asked if the hospital executive knew how miserable Mr. Seminerio could make his life. The hospital is identified as one that private investors took control of around 2004. Parkway Hospital fits that description.

[View the updated criminal complaint in United States District Court in Manhattan.](#)

## At A Glance

**TB:** New York state celebrated TB Day yesterday by noting the 1,200 cases of TB in 2008 were the third highest, behind the results in California and Texas, and reflected a 2% increase over 2007. In New York City, there were 895 cases, for a rate of 11.2 cases per 100,000, a 2% decrease from 2007 and a 21.3% drop over the past five years.

**PULSE EXTRA:** Today's edition is the fifth in a series identifying the highest-paid personnel at New York area hospitals.

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# Blogs about: Seminerio

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## Tony, Tony, Tony

Previously indicted South Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio has been indicted again. This time, the Dept. of Justice outline how he used extortion and threats to get money, as well as to influence ... more →

*Queens Tribune Blog*

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# THE BROOKLYN OPTIMIST

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MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009

## McLaughlin, Monserrate and Seminerio: Where's the Outrage?



This morning I read a quote in the union newspaper *The Chief* that made me mad:

*"Brian McLaughlin was a colleague and a close friend," said United Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, "and this is a sad day for him, his family, and the labor movement."*

For those of you who don't know Brian McLaughlin, he is the former Queens Assemblyman and New York City AFL-CIO Central Labor Council President, who plead guilty on March 7th to federal racketeering charges, so that instead of facing 30+ years in prison, he'll likely only end up with 8 to 10.

McLaughlin's crimes were particularly despicable. He ripped off \$2.2 million from union members and City taxpayers to spend on stuff

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[www.brooklynoptimist.com](http://www.brooklynoptimist.com)? 5 days ago

File away this fun fact. Howdy Doody had 48 freckles on his face - one for each of the 48 states at the time. 6 days ago

In honor of Natasha Richardson everyone should watch The Handmaid's Tale. Phenomenal dystopian movie. One of my favs. Richardson is amazing. 6 days ago

Buddhist monk says Twitter can lead to happiness:  
<http://tinyurl.com/cta2y4> 8 days ago

Who is bigger scum: Malcolm Smith or Hiram Monserrate?  
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like a luxury house on Long Island, a Mercedes Benz, and country club fees. He even plundered money from a Little League set up for the children of union members. To quote the same *Chief* article, when McLaughlin learned that one of his corrupt confederates had spent \$2,800 on equipment for the kids rather than stealing it all, McLaughlin lashed out: "[A]ll that fucking money he's fucking spending on other stuff, that ain't his money ... that's mine."

Nice guy, huh?

You'd think so from the tone of Randi Weingarten's aforementioned quote in *The Chief*. Weingarten makes it sound like McLaughlin was a good person who somehow lost his way and carelessly fell into bilking Little Leaguers. I wonder if she would publicly express the same messianic compassion for Bernard Madoff.

Now, the intention of this post is not to criticize Weingarten. She is merely representative of a political power structure that hardly ever breaks rank to criticize its members, even when they are deserving of our utmost scorn and contempt.

How bad does an elected official have to be to provoke criticism from their colleagues? These days it seems like that there's no crime a politician can commit that is so heinous that their party's leaders bother to condemn them.

Take Congressman Joe Crowley, the head of the Queens Democratic Party. Crowley was one of the Congressmen who expressed moral outrage last week at A.I.G. execs for receiving millions in bonuses. Surely, if Crowley could muster so much anger over *legal* bonuses, he must have blown his top when he learned his longtime friend Brian McLaughlin had admitted to stealing over two million bucks from innocent people.

What was Crowley's comment on McLaughlin's crimes? Over two weeks after McLaughlin's guilty plea, he still hasn't made one. (And why hasn't the press demanded one?)

But then again, neither has any other elected official from Queens. Or *any* Citywide politician, for that matter. What about the candidates for Mayor, Comptroller, or the ombudsman of the people, Public Advocate? Not a word.

Sadly, this is an all-too-familiar silence. Not one politician stood up



#### BLOG ARCHIVE

##### ▼ 2009 (14)

###### ▼ March (14)

Council Candidate Steve Levin:  
Bored by Nydia, Une...  
McLaughlin, Monserrate and  
Seminero: Where's the ...

Another Great Event: Brooklyn  
Food Conference 2009...  
Blogfest 2009: On Your Marks,  
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Happy St. Patrick's Day!

Brooklyn's Newest Blog: A  
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Don't Let Our Stimulus Money  
Go To Atlantic Yards!...

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In Memoriam: Bob Guskind  
Brooklyn's Newest Optimist:

to condemn disgraced Queens Assemblyman Anthony Seminerio either when he was arrested last September for allegedly using a dummy consulting firm to take \$500,000 in payoffs from people seeking his favor in Albany. According to the indictment, Seminerio, a 30-year incumbent, was caught on tape explaining the rationale for his scheme: "I was doing favors for these sons-of-bitches there, you know, they were—they were making thousands. 'Screw you, from now on, you know, I'm a consultant."

Even State Senator Hiram Monserrate has escaped public reproach from his colleagues. Monserrate, who recently leapt from the City Council to the Senate, made the front page of every paper in the city in December when he was arrested for allegedly slashing his girlfriend with a broken glass during a fight. The incident wasn't the first blow to the beleaguered State Senator from Queens. Monserrate was already embroiled in an investigation into a highly dubious nonprofit he directed \$250,000 in City money to called Libre, which was run by Julissa Ferreras, his former chief of staff and successor to his Council seat.

How did Senate Majority Leader Malcolm Smith punish Monserrate, who was indicted this morning on felony assault charges? By throwing him a fundraiser last week!

What did the Working Families Party do to chastise Ferreras for her role in Libre? They endorsed her bid for City Council.

The fact that our politicians, for one reason or another, have collectively decided that it is either inappropriate or, worse, inexpedient to denounce their colleagues-turned-criminals is morally repugnant. When politicians ignore the profound injury done to society when the public trust is violated, they minimize this most serious of crimes in the eyes of the people and send a tacit message to other corrupt elected officials not to worry because their party will be behind them no matter what.

They also perpetuate an environment where district attorneys feel no pressure to investigate their fellow electeds. The whole system becomes a polite détente, governed by the cynical principle that one hand whitewashes the other.

This system works just fine for party insiders and our elected officials, but it damns the rest of us to endure a government stripped of accountability, transparency, and courage.

Fiona Lucia Pehme

- 2008 (168)
- 2007 (1)

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POSTED BY ABOUT THE OPTIMIST AT 2:30 PM   
LABELS: ANTHONY SEMINERIO, BERNARD MADOFF, BRIAN MC LAUGHLIN,  
HIRAM MONSERRATE, JOE CROWLEY, JULISSA FERRERAS, LIBRE, RANDI  
WEINGARTEN

## 1 COMMENTS:

Queens Crapper said...

*Vallone called the married Gallagher's decision to have sex with a woman in his Middle Village office last summer "unwise," but added: "He did not commit the crime of rape...Justice is now done."*

*"The judge did the right thing in dismissing this indictment, and I would ask that the district attorney not seek to re-present it because justice is now done," Vallone added.*

MARCH 23, 2009 10:20 PM

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1d 10h ago [The New York Times](#)

### [① New Allegations Are Added to Seminerio's Indictment](#)

About 10 years ago, Anthony S. Seminerio, an assemblyman from Queens, began asking the president of a Queens nonprofit to hire his consulting firm, prosecutors said. The executive, whose organization depended on the state for much of its financing, did

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